





## HOME NEWS

## Newspaper merger approval took staffs by surprise

By David Felton

Labour Reporter

The announcement of the closing of the *Evening News* and its merger with the *Evening Standard* was made yesterday after the Government said it had no objection. It came as a surprise to unions and staff working on the two newspapers.

Lord Matthews, chairman of Express Newspapers, which owns the *Evening Standard*, confessed surprise that he had not been given prior warning by the Department of Trade before it announced that a merger would not be referred to the Monopolies Commission.

Details of the agreement with Associated Newspapers Group, which owns the *Evening News*, were given to local union officials who were said by Lord Matthews to be "not very happy".

The *Evening News* is due to cease publication at the end of the month, and union officials were warned last night by newspaper executives that if there was any interruption in publication before the planned closure date redundancy payments could be affected.

A new-style *Evening Standard* with a print run of 600,000 and 700,000 will go on sale the day after the closure of its rival which would have celebrated its centenary next year.

Lord Matthews expressed the hope that the new newspaper would contain the best features of both publications.

Mr Charles Wintour, who has been editor of the *Evening Standard* for most of the past 20 years, will step down and Express Newspapers has resisted pressure from Associated Newspapers that Mr. Louis Kirby, editor of the *Evening News*, should be editor of the new newspaper.

The financial arrangements surrounding the deal were not revealed in detail by Lord Matthews, but it is understood that Associated has paid more than £1m for half the assets of the *Evening Standard* Company. Lord Matthews said that since the early spring there had been a dramatic fall in the amount of advertisements carried by the newspapers. "We were both faced with the possibility that either one could have to close," he said.

"I believe that Fleet Street will see further casualties unless there is a very big change in thinking and the use of all technologies that are available to keep prices at a level to enable circulations to grow instead of fall," he added.

Restrictive practices by the trade unions had been a big factor in the crisis now facing Fleet Street, Lord Matthews said, but he believed that present agreements with printing workers at the *Evening Standard* would enable a much larger print run to be achieved.

Despite selling Associated a half stake in the *Evening Standard*, Lord Matthews will have final control with a casting vote on all important issues.

Leading article, page 15



Lord Matthews, chairman of Express Newspapers, with yesterday's copies of the "Evening Standard" and the doomed "Evening News".

## Decline and fall of the 'Evening News'

By Robin Young

and Craig Seton

Twenty years ago London had three evening newspapers with combined circulations of nearly four million copies a day. The *Star*, the cockney paper, died 20 years ago. The *Evening News* and *Evening Standard* fought on and fought each other, but by June their combined circulations had shrunk to under 900,000 and their losses mounted. It was inevitable one or the other would go to the wall.

The announcement yesterday that the *Evening News* would cease publication with the loss of 1,750 jobs and that a new *Evening Standard* will serve London surprised nobody in the pugnacious world of newspaper editors.

Three years ago the story could have been different. Then, Associated Newspapers, the mother company of the *Evening News*, made a determined attempt to take over its evening rival, but the merger did not happen, at first stopped by a counter-bid from Sir James Goldsmith and Mr. Roland (Tiny) Rowland.

A few months later, in July 1977, Beaverbrook Newspapers, the owner of the *Evening Standard*, was bought by the Associated Newspapers group for £14m and renamed Express Newspapers. Rumours continued about the likelihood of a single London evening newspaper, but this time the future of *Evening News* in spite of its larger circulation, was clearly in doubt.

The sad, dramatic decline in the fortunes of the two newspapers is clearly demonstrated by the circulation figures. In 1954, when the *News* was selling nearly 1.3 million copies a day, the *Standard* boasted a daily circulation of 1.75 million and the *Evening Standard* sold 861,000.

## Fierce competition for advertising

In June this year, the *Evening News*'s circulation was down to 462,000 and the *Evening Standard* only 525,000. The *News* was selling 1.3 million copies a day in 1954, while the *Standard* was selling 1.75 million copies a day in 1954. The *News* was selling 462,000 copies a day in June this year, while the *Standard* was selling 525,000 copies a day in June this year.

The fierce competition for advertising is clearly demonstrated by the circulation figures. In 1954, when the *News* was selling nearly 1.3 million copies a day, the *Standard* boasted a daily circulation of 1.75 million and the *Evening Standard* sold 861,000.

## Divorce and the myth of the young woman

By John Witherow

Middle-aged men who marry young women rarely run a much younger woman in divorce.

The *Financial Times* has shown that the average age of second wives is only 25 years, a third of the first wives.

The survey of 133 divorced men published shortly before Law Commission releases papers on the financial aspects of divorce law found that the average age of second wives was 25 years, a third of the first wives.

Overall, however, men were nearly 10 times likely to have a first wife, and control of children.

Lower income divorcees were also less likely to be second wives than higher income divorcees.

Of the former homes, 42 per cent of the second wives had remarried within a year of divorce. When the homes were not about 46 per cent were remarried within a year.

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## Sadness and resignation among Northcliffe House men

By Richard Ford

Outside Northcliffe House, where the *Evening News* was published, the unofficial billboard told the story to passers-by with the words "The End is Nigh".

It summed up the sadness felt by the men who will lose their jobs when the paper closes at the end of the month, and reflects the feeling they have lived with for many years.

For rumour and gossip about the future of London's best-selling newspaper has been constant among those who work in Fleet Street. Although many of the staff had been resigned to the paper's closure one day or other, they were stunned at the speed with which the end has come.

They were said that a newspaper about to celebrate its centenary is "to die, and sad, too; that a paper renowned for

its friendliness and happy atmosphere has finally succumbed to the financial pressures of considerable losses. Those are estimated at £7m in the 11 months of the financial year that ended on September 30.

But amid the sadness and resignation was much bitterness at the way the issue had been handled by the management, whose staff first knew of the merger proposals when a Department of Trade official telephoned them with the information.

About fifty journalists marched from the building to Carmelite House near by, demanding to see Mr. E. Wintour, Ingram, managing director of Harnsworth Publications, to find out what was going on. He was prepared to see a deputation of 10 who were told about the closure.

Mr Ron Burdett, father of the

chapel (office branch) of the National Union of Journalists, and an employee on the *Evening News* for 16 years, said: "It was not a total surprise as we have lived through so many crises, but when it finally came it was naturally a shock."

"Our feelings are of anxiety and chagrin but the *Evening News* is finished."

Among other journalists there was anger at the way the management had kept them in the dark about the decisions affecting their future. Mr David Melton said: "We've been struck by the suddenness and stunned by the speed of the way in which it has all happened. But there is anger that the management did not see fit to keep us properly informed about what was going on."

Mr Melton said the chapel thought that one of the reasons why most of the journalists on the *Evening News* were

to be made redundant was that they were on contracts with three months' notice, while at the *Evening Standard*, there was a year's notice, which made redundancy much cheaper at the *Evening News*.

Mr Guy Simpson, deputy picture editor, said that many people had probably believed that the paper would close some day, but that it was still sad when the decision was finally made, and sad because it meant less variety for the public.

Mr Derek Keen, father of the chapel for the *Evening News*, said: "I am not surprised, but of course we are concerned. For me and for many others it was not a question of if, but a question of when."

Another man who has worked there for 34 years was close to

tears as he walked from the building, saying that the workers were the last to know. "It has not sunk in yet just what this all means."

Across Fleet Street at the *Evening Standard*, there was sympathy for fellow workers being made redundant, and an understanding of the reasons for the closure. Mr. Wintour said: "We are all in the same boat and without a fight, they could close us tomorrow. It is healthy to have opposition."

Among other Fleet Street workers there was speculation as to whether, with the *Evening News* gone by the end of the month, the *Evening Standard* would start a "down market" popular evening paper as a rival.

## Tight security as West Ham play before empty stands

By Michael Horspell

More than 500 police ringed the West Ham United football ground last night when the club played its second leg European Cup Winners' Cup tie against the Spanish side, Castella, before empty stands.

Police, in more than three times their normal numbers for a match at the ground, appeared to be on high alert, with a strong, modernised and backing SW, max temp 13° to 14° (55° to 57°).

As the clubs kicked off in the gloomy vacuum of the East

London ground, handfuls of disappointed supporters gathered outside the locked gates. One man was arrested in a minor disturbance as the Spanish team coach arrived.

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## Social worker jailed over girl of 13

Julian McLean-Thorne, aged 26, a social worker on parole from prison, who smoked cannabis with a girl of 13 and then had sexual intercourse with her, was jailed at the Central Criminal Court yesterday for five years. He also had his parole licence revoked.

The offences were said to have taken place at a youth hostel run by the London Borough of Haringey, where Mr. McLean-Thorne was employed.

Judge Abdalla, QC, said he hoped the case would be a spur to the council as to the control it exercised at the hostel in Wilton Road, Tottenham, and at another one involved in the case, in The Avenue, Tottenham.

He said: "One wonders who it is who appoints the staff and clothes them with responsibility. Very, very careful investigation should be made into the backgrounds of people appointed as social workers in such hostels."

Mr McLean-Thorne admitted having unlawful sexual intercourse with the girl on March 18 this year. He also admitted two charges of supplying cannabis, and one of possessing the drug, which he admitted possessing a 22 air rifle while he was a person who had been given a five-year prison sentence.

Mr Michael Addison, for the prosecution, said Mr. McLean-Thorne took a 14-year-old boy, a resident at the Wilton Road

hostel, and the two girls who were visiting him, to the other youth hostel at The Avenue. There they smoked cannabis, which he provided. When the girl of 13 became sick, he told the others to go, locked the door, and had sexual intercourse with her.

Det Sergeant Charles Saggs said Mr McLean-Thorne had been in court seven times since 1971. His convictions included four for burglary, two for theft, and one for possession of a firearm with intent to commit an offence. He was granted parole on August 29, 1979.

At the Central Criminal Court in 1978 he was jailed for five years for three robbery offences and for carrying a firearm with intent to commit an offence. He was granted parole on August 29, 1979.

## Mr Weighell alleges there is a plot to oust him

Mr Sidney Weighell, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, said last night that he was the victim of a plot to oust him from a TUC committee and that an understanding between his union and the transport workers' union was now suspect.

Mr Weighell said he was speaking after an ultimatum to Mr. Mostyn Evans, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, passed its deadline without a meeting that had been called for taking place.

At the centre of the dispute was the decision last week to replace Mr Weighell as chairman of the TUC's transport committee with Mr Lawrence Smith, national officer of the transport union.

Last night the railwaymen's leader said that that decision breached long-standing TUC practice and that a firm understanding between the rail union and the transport workers had been tossed aside.

He said he would contest the chairmanship of the committee

at the next meeting of the TUC General Council.

Mr Weighell said the rail union also stood firm on its attitude to free speech in the trade union movement, an issue bitterly debated the day before he was ousted when Mr Frank Chapple, the electricians' union leader, was dismissed from the TUC's inner cabinet.

Ever since the events last week he said he had been expecting a meeting with the transport union, but it had not happened because the transport workers kept making excuses.

"I want to know where we stand," Mr Weighell said. And, in a reference to Mr. Evans, he added: "Does he want to continue a working association or have constant friction and battle?"

The rail leader had been particularly incensed by Mr. Alexander Kitson, the deputy leader of the transport union, who, he said, had supported Mr. Smith's nomination only a few days before the rail union help in the dock strike.

## Weather forecast and recordings



Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	13°	SW	Partly cloudy	
Edinburgh	10°	W	Cloudy	
Belfast	12°	SW	Partly cloudy	
Cardiff	11°	W	Cloudy	
Birmingham	14°	SW	Partly cloudy	
Manchester	13°	SW	Partly cloudy	
Sheffield	12°	SW	Partly cloudy	
Leeds	11°	SW	Partly cloudy	
Nottingham	13°	SW	Partly cloudy	
Coventry	14°	SW	Partly cloudy	
Bristol	13°	SW	Partly cloudy	
Exeter	12°	SW	Partly cloudy	
Plymouth	13°	SW	Partly cloudy	
Southampton	14°	SW	Partly cloudy	
Portsmouth	13°	SW	Partly cloudy	
Weymouth	12°	SW	Partly cloudy	
Bournemouth	13°	SW	Partly cloudy	
Dorchester	12°	SW	Partly cloudy	
Salisbury	13°	SW	Partly cloudy	
Andover	12°	SW	Partly cloudy	
Winchester	13°	SW	Partly cloudy	
Reading	14°	SW	Partly cloudy	
Wokingham	13°	SW	Partly cloudy	
Spelthorpe	12°	SW	Partly cloudy	
Uxbridge	13°	SW	Partly cloudy	
Slough	12°	SW	Partly cloudy	
Windsor	13°	SW	Partly cloudy	
Marlow	12°	SW	Partly cloudy	
Princes Risborough	13°	SW	Partly cloudy	
High Wycombe	12°	SW	Partly cloudy	
Amersham	13°	SW	Partly cloudy	
Chesham	12°	SW	Partly cloudy	
Uxbridge	13°	SW	Partly cloudy	
Slough	12°	SW	Partly cloudy	
Windsor	13°	SW	Partly cloudy	
Marlow	12°	SW	Partly cloudy	
Princes Risborough	13°	SW	Partly cloudy	
High Wycombe	12°	SW	Partly cloudy	
Amersham	13°	SW	Partly cloudy	
Chesham	12°	SW	Partly cloudy	

## Dallas service takes off Oct. 26th.

We'll be flying to Dallas/Fort Worth four times a week. So you'll be able to enjoy the three cabins and the unique Scottish hospitality for which we're renowned, all the way to the South-West USA.

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Choices like these aren't made in heaven, but Heathrow. At the Sheraton Skyline Hotel.

The Sheraton is fast becoming a target not only for revelry but business, too. Its banqueting suites and halls can cope with conferences of up to 500. While smaller meetings can be held in any of the Hotel's private rooms.

And in the evening where better for the tired businessman to relax?

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Where Heathrow really comes alive.

## Pact reached to end crane drivers' strike

A settlement to end the two-week strike by 3,000 mobile-crane drivers at building sites throughout the country has been agreed and will be put to the men at mass meetings today. Union leaders are confident of a return to work tomorrow.

The agreement, which was hammered out during nine hours of talks at the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service, will include the reinstatement of about five hundred crane drivers in the North-east and South Wales who were dismissed after operating an overtime ban.

The overtime ban was called by the construction section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers after a breakdown in negotiations with construction plant employers over rates to be paid to drivers for maintaining their cranes.

## Over and out: Mr Edward McNamara, a bachelor aged 61, clinging to the side of his glass fibre barrel in which he hoped to cross the Atlantic. He had to call of his voyage yesterday when, after repeatedly falling out, he was washed ashore to his starting point at Sennen Cove, Lands End, after only 50 minutes. He was undeterred and said he would attempt a crossing again today.

## Shell workers reject pay offer of 11pc

Leaders of 3,700 Shell refinery and chemical workers have rejected an 11 per cent pay offer from the company which is linked to a reduction in the working week.

The offer, which closely follows advice from the Confederation of British Industry and government ministers, was described by senior union negotiators as having "a political flavour". Further claims are to be held next week a day after a joint meeting of senior shop stewards from Shell and British Petroleum.

That meeting is expected to threaten industrial action against both companies if there is not a big improvement in pay offers. BP has offered a 10 per cent increase to its staff at the Grangemouth refinery in Scotland and 11 per cent at the Grain refinery in Kent.

The unions, led by the Transport and General Workers' Union, had asked for substantial increases with longer holidays and a shorter working week. The total claim was thought to amount to more than 20 per cent.

Shell offered a 37-hour week to be introduced from October 1983.

## Esso men join protest

The Irish Republic's petrol supply difficulties became worse last night when tanker drivers employed by Esso, the only big oil company to operate in the port, said they would not work normally until troops called in to move supplies were withdrawn.

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## Brickworks play goes ahead despite hostility

From Our Correspondent, Luton

The London Brick Company is to go ahead with plans to build a new plant in Bedfordshire in the face of local opposition and despite its apparent failure to meet the county council's conditions of pollution control.

The company said yesterday: "We are submitting plans to the county council and it is proved that which is designed that pollutants can be removed when a treatment plant is available. But agreed that so far research has not found a satisfactory treatment plant."

When Bedfordshire County Council approved the scheme July it stipulated that any plans submitted should include facilities for removal of pollutants, odours, and noise.

Mr. Richard H. Jones, secretary of the Bedfordshire and Huntingdonshire branch of the National Farmers' Union, said the planning consent had been given that nothing should be built which could be a nuisance to the area.

The union would strongly oppose any scheme for building that did not fulfil that



# HOME NEWS

## NUJ intimidating 'Times' staff seeking to resign from union over strike, IOJ claims

Mr. Andrew Oman, a senior journalist at the *Times*, said yesterday that the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) was seeking to intimidate staff who were seeking to resign from the union over a strike. Mr. Oman, who is a member of the IOJ (Independent Organisation of Journalists), said that the NUJ was using its disciplinary powers to prevent staff from leaving the union. He said that the NUJ was threatening to suspend staff who were seeking to resign from the union. Mr. Oman said that the NUJ was using its disciplinary powers to prevent staff from leaving the union. He said that the NUJ was threatening to suspend staff who were seeking to resign from the union. Mr. Oman said that the NUJ was using its disciplinary powers to prevent staff from leaving the union. He said that the NUJ was threatening to suspend staff who were seeking to resign from the union.

## Traffic set to expand, road federation says

Michael Baily, a senior correspondent at the *Times*, said yesterday that traffic in Britain was set to expand. He said that the Road Federation, which represents the interests of motorists, had predicted that traffic would increase by 20 per cent over the next 10 years. Mr. Baily said that the Road Federation was concerned that the current rate of road building was not sufficient to cope with the increase in traffic. He said that the Road Federation was calling for more road building to be undertaken.

## sh TV plans incorporated in Broadcasting Bill

Arts Reporter, said yesterday that the plans for a new Welsh language television channel had been incorporated into the Broadcasting Bill. He said that the Bill, which is being introduced by the Government, would give the Welsh language channel the same status as the other main channels. Mr. Baily said that the Welsh language channel was a long-standing demand and that the Government was pleased to meet it.

## Police fear Home Office wants to lower standards to attract more black and Asian cadets

Edward Tandler, a senior reporter at the *Times*, said yesterday that the Home Office was considering lowering the standards for police cadets in order to attract more black and Asian recruits. He said that the Home Office was concerned that the current standards were too high and that they were deterring potential recruits. Mr. Tandler said that the Home Office was considering lowering the standards for police cadets in order to attract more black and Asian recruits. He said that the Home Office was concerned that the current standards were too high and that they were deterring potential recruits.

## Oxford graduate jailed for stealing books

From Our Correspondent, Oxford, said yesterday that a graduate of Oxford University had been jailed for stealing books. He said that the graduate, who was a student at the university, had been caught stealing books from the university library. Mr. Tandler said that the graduate had been sentenced to a year in prison for the theft.

## UDR men charged in Belfast

From a Staff Reporter, Belfast, said yesterday that two members of the Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR) had been charged with terrorist offences. He said that the two men, who were both members of the UDR, had been charged with the possession of explosives. Mr. Tandler said that the two men had been charged with the possession of explosives.

## Report floats the idea of London airship terminal

By Arthur Reed, a senior reporter at the *Times*, said yesterday that a report had floated the idea of a London airship terminal. He said that the report, which was produced by a committee of experts, suggested that a terminal for airships could be built near the city. Mr. Reed said that the report was a serious consideration of the possibility of airships being used for transport.



Close inspection of one of the late Mr Thomas Paisley's collection of 29 steam rollers and traction engines auctioned near St Ives, Cambridgeshire, yesterday.

## Universities warned of danger to credibility

By Diana Gaddes, Education Correspondent, said yesterday that universities were being warned of a danger to their credibility. She said that the Government was concerned that the universities were not doing enough to improve the standards of their graduates. Ms. Gaddes said that the Government was warning the universities of a danger to their credibility.

## Group attacks policy on young offenders

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent, said yesterday that a group of young offenders was attacking the Government's policy on young offenders. He said that the group, which was made up of young people who had been in the care of the state, was protesting against the Government's policy. Mr. Healy said that the group was attacking the Government's policy on young offenders.

## Prince Philip award for oil rig rescuers

By Our Air Correspondent, said yesterday that Prince Philip had awarded a medal to the crew of an oil rig for their bravery in rescuing a lost helicopter. He said that the crew of the oil rig, which was the *Agave*, had saved the helicopter and its crew. Mr. Healy said that Prince Philip had awarded a medal to the crew of the oil rig.

# Don't miss the boat this Christmas.

If you have friends overseas, you'll want your Christmas greetings and presents to arrive on time. Which means posting them on time. And for some places, that may be sooner than you think.

DESTINATION	ALL MAIL	PARCELS AND PACKETS	LETTERS AND POSTCARDS
Far East and Australasia	6 Oct	1 Dec	1 Dec
Middle and Near East	13 Oct	3 Dec	8 Dec
Africa	6 Oct	1 Dec	3 Dec

Details of latest recommended posting dates for overseas Christmas mail to all areas are in this leaflet. Pick it up at any post office - and spread some good cheer overseas.

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Get the most from your post

## Overseas Christmas Mail 1980

Recommended last posting dates







# HOME NEWS

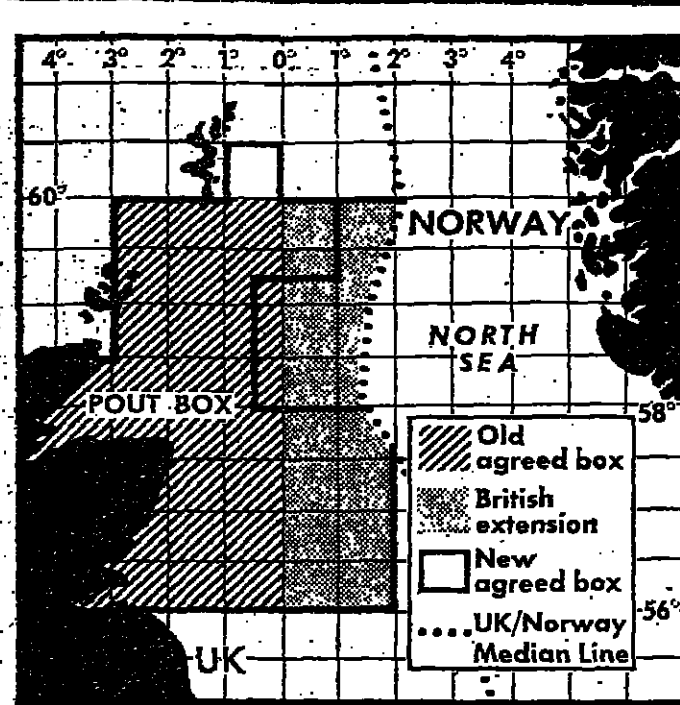
## Electricity board confirms that it tends to build pressurized water reactors on site in Suffolk

**Shelagh Hirst**  
**Central Electricity Generating Board** has confirmed that it intends to build two American-designed, pressurized water reactors (PWRs) on site at Sizewell, Suffolk. At that site is occupied by a generation station, a power station, and a nuclear reactor. The board's decision to build PWRs was announced yesterday after a long period of consultation with the public and the Government. The board's decision is based on the fact that PWRs are the most advanced and safest type of nuclear reactor available. They are also the most economical and efficient. The board's decision is based on the fact that PWRs are the most advanced and safest type of nuclear reactor available. They are also the most economical and efficient. The board's decision is based on the fact that PWRs are the most advanced and safest type of nuclear reactor available. They are also the most economical and efficient.

But the first shots in the battle to stem the development of nuclear power in the area were fired earlier in the year. Indeed, one action by Ipswich Borough Council, which is being repeated by local authorities in the West Country and the North-west of England, could have a profound influence on the nuclear industry. A proposal by the Ipswich council, which was endorsed at a public meeting last month, called for the drafting of a by-law that would prohibit the transport of nuclear waste from Sizewell by rail through the borough. The council has been advised that the making of a by-law on that matter is beyond the district council's legal powers. Mr Graham Searle, a member of the Stop Sizewell B Association, suggested yesterday that the closure by the generating board "of an intention to build a Sizewell C station" would raise support prices to British farmers by 16 per cent, on top of the 11 per cent they have been given in the spring from the old British rules. By 1984 the new rules would be worth £100m a year in EEC funds to Britain. Support prices for each of the four years until they reached French prices. The new rules would be worth £100m a year in EEC funds to Britain. Support prices for each of the four years until they reached French prices. The new rules would be worth £100m a year in EEC funds to Britain. Support prices for each of the four years until they reached French prices.

## British drop claim on France over lamb war

**By Hugh Clayton**  
**Agriculture Correspondent**  
Britain has dropped its claim for £20m damages from France to cover the cost of the long "lamb war" between the two countries. Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, said in London yesterday: "As far as the British Government is concerned, there won't be a claim. It would be a long, protracted case which would do a lot of damage to relationships in the Community which would not be worth the money involved." Mr Walker said at the height of the "lamb war" in January that the British Government had been advised that the case for damages was good although there were no precedents. The claim has been dropped because the "war" has been ended by the adoption for the first time by the EEC of rules establishing a common market for the meat of sheep and goats. Mr Walker said that the rules would raise support prices to British farmers by 16 per cent, on top of the 11 per cent they have been given in the spring from the old British rules. By 1984 the new rules would be worth £100m a year in EEC funds to Britain. Support prices for each of the four years until they reached French prices. The new rules would be worth £100m a year in EEC funds to Britain. Support prices for each of the four years until they reached French prices.



Alan Jackson, deputy president of the union, said: "This common market regime will provide full and fair levels of support for our producers." Mr Walker regards the results of the EEC talks on lamb and fish as successes for the Government's policy of winning useful measures from the Community through co-operation rather than the constant bickering under the Labour Government. Britain has accepted a fish deal in which national protection measures will be allowed, but only if the European Commission has approved them after being given 10 days to consider them. The Labour Government had a habit of imposing such measures on the day when it told the Commission that it had done so. The centrepiece of the new accord is the agreement to change the shape of the "pout box" in the North Sea. The box is an area, almost rectangular in its original guise, in which fishing for Norway pout is curbed to protect the young of more valuable species, like whiting, which are caught in the pout nets. Pout is caught mainly by Danish boats grinding into pigweed. The original pout box was accepted by the Community, but the British extension eastwards of 1978 was ruled illegal by the European Court in July this year. The new shape of the pout box has been accepted by all EEC countries just in time to feed off court action against Britain by Danish fishermen. The new shape creates some deep water areas near the boundary between Danish and Norwegian waters. "Scientists in my department estimate that the new box provides between 80 to 90 per cent as much protection for stocks of immature whiting as the box included in our previous national measure," Mr Walker said.

## Court backs new plan to save Manufrance

**From Ian Murray**  
**Paris, Oct 1**  
The commercial court of Saint Etienne has approved a new plan to save Manufrance, the city's famous gun and bicycle manufacturers. Government agreement is expected next month. For the 1,875 people who remain on the payroll the court's decision could mark the end of a four-year journey into bankruptcy by the company, which is still the main employer in one of France's worst unemployment areas. M Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister, said two weeks ago that the Government had withdrawn an offer of 150m francs (£14.9m) and washed its hands of the company after a workable plan for its future had not been found. Its new lease of life is due to the determination of Jean-Claude Dumas, a young Bordeaux businessman, who has persuaded a Swiss banking consortium to put up 120m Swiss francs (£30.1m) to save it. M Dumas has had a chequered business career. After going bankrupt at the age of 26 he became an agent of Radio Caribbe, and later tried to form a management and public relations business and a telephone answering and a mail forwarding service. The Swiss consortium includes the Schindler and the Nerkul Bank. The man chosen to be president of the new board is another remarkable businessman, M Bernard Tapie, aged 36, who claims to have saved 11 companies and 1,750 jobs in his strange career. He has worked as an electrical engineer, a singer, and a racing driver. One of his songs was used as the theme for John Wayne's film *The Green Berets*. Two years ago he formed Cœur Assistance, an organization for heart attack sufferers. It is being investigated by police after the death of a member. A year ago he bought all seven of former Emperor Bokassa's French castles for 12m francs. He has promised to give resale profits to Unicef if he wins the court case brought against him by the former emperor. If the Swiss consortium fails to save all Manufrance's jobs, M Tapie plans to keep the gun, sewing machine, and hunting magazine interests and sell the bicycle plant and mail order business. Fifteen years ago Manufrance was the main mail order company in France and four years ago had its highest turnover. Recently the major shareholders used to turn up at bi-annual meetings with small suitcases in which to put their dividends which were paid in cash. Eight managers directors have tried and failed in the past four years to save the company.

## brief

### field severs

**Public link**  
Nuffield Nursing Homes has severed its links with the British Provident Association. The plan to link its charitable status will make no difference to the patients who will be able to choose to be at one of the Nuffield hospitals.

### Mass Mormons aided

Employed members of the 1 of Latter Day Saints in hire have been urged by church not to sign for payment benefit. Mormons have asked their members to turn to the for aid rather than the.

### tionist drunk

Matthews, aged 21, of 1 of South Street, London, a lieutenant in the Army, was given a discharge by magistrates at Chichester, West yesterday for being and assaulting Mrs Doris a police man.

### at recaptured

Samuel Ellis, aged 44, two Broadmoor hospital who absconded on ber 4 while on a day's to Poole, Dorset, has recaptured in London. The patient, Mr Michael 29, is still missing.

### d for bravery

eter Beck, an auxiliary, of Burnham Over, who saved three clinging to an up- ding in icy seas to receive a Royal Lifeboat Institution or bravery.

### s go back

er time ends at 3 am on October 26, when clocks re put back one hour to MT. Summer time will ain at 1 am GMT on March 29, 1981, when should be put forward.

### years on

new soldier has written oice admitting that he man who climbed the change clock tower at Somerset, 41 years ago pped the clock. The he cautioned him.

### er refloated

Hull trawler Junella an ground on rocks Skye on Sunday was yesterday. Her crew re rescued by lifeboat.

### ar from Cheddar

ral has been given for factory to make cheese in the Somerset from which it takes

### girls in crash

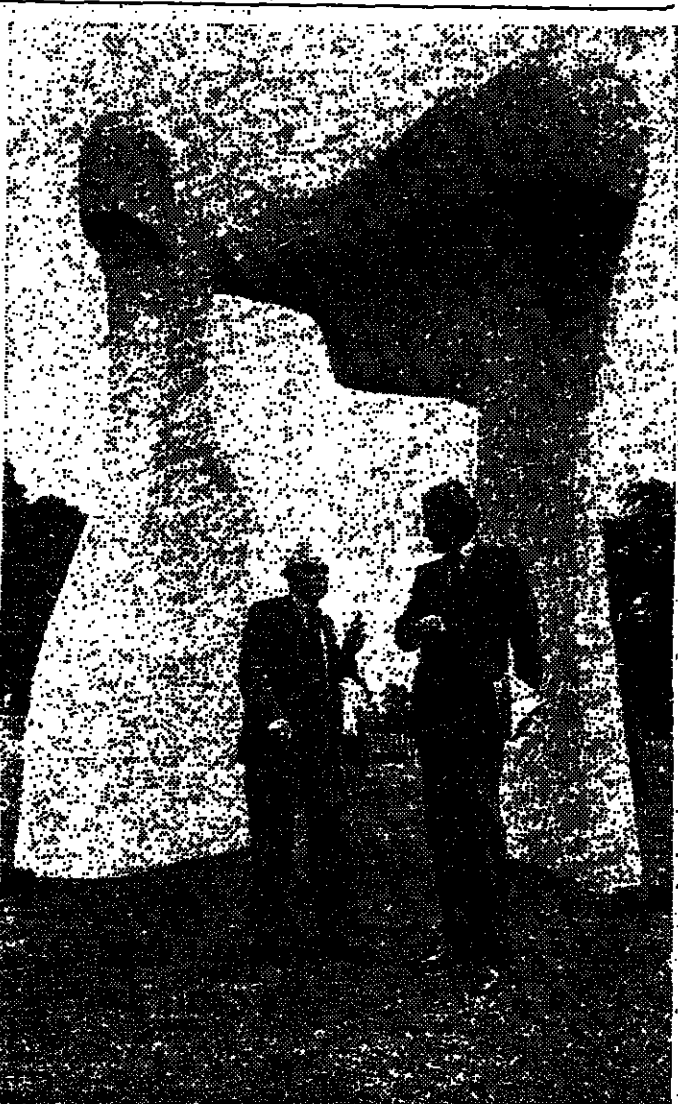
en girls from Sale School, Cheshire, were in hospital for minor yesterday after their dded into a stationary Llandudno Junction.

### farm fires

fire experts were yesterday in an arson ion after three farm the Frome district, which caused damage at £50,000.

### awards

William Whitelaw, Home has commended four 1 Prison officers for violent prisoners. Senior Officer Thomas and Officers Barry Colin Jones, and inter.



Under the arch: Henry Moore, OM, and Mr Michael Heseltine (right), Secretary of State for the Environment, under "The Arch", the sculptor's gift to Kensington Gardens, London, after an eighteenth birthday tribute to him by the Arts Council held in the gardens two years ago. The 19-foot arch of Roman Travertine marble was unveiled by Mr Heseltine who said it was "a magnificent gift".

## Councillor argues case for more private enterprise

**By Christopher Werman**  
**Local Government Correspondent**  
Many "inadequate, shoddy, and expensive" local authority services could be provided more cheaply and with better quality if they were contracted out to private enterprise, according to a pamphlet published yesterday. Mr Michael Forsyth says that councils could make enormous savings in their £20,000m annual expenditure by contracting out services ranging from dustbins and decorators to parks and planning. The pamphlet is published by the Adam Smith Institute, a "think tank" on London council policy. Mr Forsyth, a Conservative councillor on Westminster City Council, singles out rubbish collection as the main example where savings could be made. Contracting out has not been adopted widely, but Maldon District Council has saved almost one-third of its annual £187,000 budget by calling in private contractors. In the United States, where two-thirds of the nation's bins are emptied by private firms, a twice weekly municipal collection in one New York suburb costs \$207 (£84.30) for each household every year, while in a neighbouring suburb private collectors call three times a week for only \$72 (£29.50) a year. Humberston County Council saved £50,000 by getting private contractors to clean school windows, and Thanet District Council saved £26,000 by putting its deckchair operation into the private sector. Mr Forsyth says that local government services are vastly over-stuffed, subjected to ruinous restrictive practices, and top heavy with bureaucracy. Reclaiming Britain (CPC Bookshop, 32 Smith Square, London SW1 1L) is the pamphlet.

## Milk too dear, Consumers' Association says

**By Our Agriculture Correspondent**  
Milk costs too much, the Consumers' Association said yesterday. "We think it is more expensive than it needs to be," Miss Marion Cooper, a specialist in EEC affairs at the association, said. She said that milk cost more in Britain than in many other European countries. "Considering that we are always being told that we have the most efficient dairy industry that any country has," she added. Miss Cooper wrote a report about milk that appears in the latest edition of the association's magazine *Which?*, published today. The report said that the long-standing liquid premium system, which has kept the price of milk for sale in bottles was hard to justify. The premium makes that price about 2p a pint higher than that of milk destined for butter and cheese. Dr William Roberts, head of public affairs at the association, could not say by how much milk prices should be cut but called for a government investigation of milk distribution. Mr Richard Butler, president of the National Farmers' Union, said: "There is a most urgent need for producers to earn a higher average return from the market."

## Mud-slinging and crude attacks lower level of hustings

## Verbal violence of politicians fills the public with distaste

**From Patricia Clough**  
**Bonn, Oct 1**  
The present election campaign was never likely to get the prize for the most edifying exercise in West German democracy. In this final week it has reached an all-time low. For weeks the public has watched with distaste as the politicians and parties became inextricably locked in a downward spiral of mud-slinging, personal attacks, distortions, phoney arguments and crude opportunism. It is as if the political world has been trying to make up in verbal violence for what the campaign is lacking in suspense. For it knows that the public has long since made up its mind to elect Helmut Schmidt and his Social Democratic-Free Democrat coalition in power and that campaign arguments are not going to make very much difference. There is a terrible contradiction in West Germany, the former Chancellor remarked today, "between the polemics of the verbal acrobats in Munich [headquarters of Herr Franz Josef Strauss, the opposition candidate] and in Bonn's political hotbed and the calm and sober atmosphere in the rest of the country." Hardly a day has passed without one side calling the other liars, scoundrels, swindlers, and the like, with no hint of the public, unfit to govern. Not that previous election campaigns have been distinguished for delicacy of style or excellence of the debate. But this time the parties had agreed that it would be different. The leaders of the four parties decided on a fair play agreement and set up a panel, headed by a retired Protestant bishop, to act as a referee. But the panel had no brief, no teeth.

## West German Election 1980

The Opposition accuse the Social Democrats of a slander campaign against Herr Strauss, based on the scandalous and grotesque lies of his past, and point to lurid posters and cartoons by the SPD supporters depicting him as a butcher, a monster, or as some kind of Nazi. But Herr Strauss too, has likened Social Democratic propaganda to that of the Nazis and claims that Herr Schmidt is "fit for the mental asylum." The verbal duel between the two men has become increasingly personal and vituperative. Facts play only a minor role in the battle. When the bishops—Catholic ones this time—angered the SPD by taking up Opposition arguments in their pastoral letters, Herr Strauss claimed that the Chancellor was planning to "turn off the lights of state finances to the church in revenge." But the lowest point of the campaign was reached when Herr Strauss and other Christian Social Union leaders used the Munich bomb outrage as an opportunity to attack Herr Gerhard Baum, the Interior Minister. Less than 24 hours after the massacre Herr Strauss told a newspaper that Herr Baum bore "heavy responsibility" for the attack by his attitude to the security forces and to terrorism. More cautiously, other Opposition leaders joined in, while the other side accused Herr Strauss of making political capital out of human tragedy. Before the victims were buried each camp was accusing the other of having been blind to the dangers of right-wing terrorism. At Tuesday's memorial service for Herr Ernst Kieser, the CSU Mayor of Munich, spoke of a "certain weakness in society's defences" against violence and asked if everything possible was being done to combat it. Government sources, and not only the Social Democrats, have lost out on publicity, there are signs that their restraint will pay off. The public election analysts of all parties agree, heartily disliking the big parties' rough methods. According to the latest predictions, the FDP stands to increase its vote from 7.9 to 9.2 per cent. And one of the reasons, analysts say, is because it fought a clean campaign.

## Munich bomb made from British case

**From Our Own Correspondent**  
**Bonn, Oct 1**  
The device which exploded at Munich's Oktoberfest last Friday had been made from the case of a British mortar bomb. A spokesman for the Rhine Army said today. He added that the case could not possibly have been stolen from army stores in West Germany. At the request of the German police the Rhine Army identified the case as that of an obsolete 4.2in mortar-bomb. Someone had apparently filled it with explosives and fragments from other sources. Bombs of that type had not been used in British Army stores since 1965 but they had been sold widely. The death toll from the explosion rose today to 13 as a youth of 17 died of his injuries. Of the remaining 214 injured, 98 are still in hospital. The police believe that one of the victims, Herr Gundolf Köhler, a neo-Nazi, planted the bomb. Munich police and British consular sources today denied newspaper reports that the British killed in the explosion, was thought to have been an accomplice. **Minister dies at 60**  
Vienna, Oct 1.—Herr Gerhard Weissenberg, the Austrian Minister of Social Affairs, died in Vienna today after a heart attack. He was 60.

## Greece prepares for full membership of the EEC

**From Mario Modiano**  
**Athens, Oct 1**  
The association agreement signed between Greece and the EEC 18 years ago, is being gradually phased out as Greece prepares to join the common institutions in readiness for full membership on January 1. The mixed committee of EEC and Greek parliamentarians set up in 1962 to supervise the application of the association treaty, meets in Rhodes tomorrow for its final session. It will be largely a symbolic occasion, but it will offer itself for some important stocktaking. Mr John Papanastasiou who negotiated the association agreement and was Greek chairman of the mixed committee until the end of the year, will be given a chance to put across the Greek views at preliminary consultations. Experts from the Community's Agricultural Orientation and Guarantee Fund are spending this week in Athens imparting to the Greek officials the intricacies of the common agricultural policy financing and the administration of the funds that will be made available to Greek agriculture. Between Monday and Thursday Greek officials will be negotiating in Brussels the updating of Greek agricultural prices and their phased readjustment to Community levels during the five to seven-year grace period. The Rhodes meeting will act in some ways as a bridge with the European Parliament which will offer 24 seats to Greek members of Parliament. The direct election of European MPs will not be possible in Greece until the general election which is due some time in 1981. Tomorrow's meeting will be attended by Mr George Kontogeorgis, the Minister Without Portfolio who led the negotiations for Greece's accession. He is the most likely candidate to be sponsored by the Greek Government for European Commissioner. To all intents and purposes Greece is already being treated virtually as a full member of what will soon be called the "Ten." Mr Constantine Mitsotakis, the Greek Foreign Minister, has been invited to attend for the first time the Council of Foreign Ministers meeting in Brussels next week. He will be a silent partner until the end of the year, but will be given a chance to put across the Greek views at preliminary consultations. Experts from the Community's Agricultural Orientation and Guarantee Fund are spending this week in Athens imparting to the Greek officials the intricacies of the common agricultural policy financing and the administration of the funds that will be made available to Greek agriculture. Between Monday and Thursday Greek officials will be negotiating in Brussels the updating of Greek agricultural prices and their phased readjustment to Community levels during the five to seven-year grace period. The Rhodes meeting will act in some ways as a bridge with the European Parliament which will offer 24 seats to Greek members of Parliament. The direct election of European MPs will not be possible in Greece until the general election which is due some time in 1981. Tomorrow's meeting will be attended by Mr George Kontogeorgis, the Minister Without Portfolio who led the negotiations for Greece's accession. He is the most likely candidate to be sponsored by the Greek Government for European Commissioner.

## The parrot language of politics

Politics has got simpler. Or, at least, politicians' speeches have. Gladstone's standard length was 19,000 words. Now the average is down to 4,000. But the issues themselves haven't got any simpler. So what is happening in terms of communication? And does this do any service to democracy? New Society this week scrutinises the way politicians tackle issues. Research shows that it is often a dialogue of the deaf. There is one major politician who continues to speak even when the clapping starts. To find out who he is, and why, read New Society. Also this week: Why burglars crap on the carpet. The new Germany. A success story for intermediate treatment. David Donnison on poverty and pressure groups. Plus our O and A level supplement—on social biology.

**NEWSOCIETY**  
EVERY THURSDAY 40p



## IRAN/IRAQ WAR

## Iran promises not to block Strait of Hormuz and continues to defend Ahvaz and Khorramshahr

From Tawfik Mislawi Beirut, Oct 1

Iran promised today it would not do anything that would lead to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, through which one third of the non-Communist world's oil has to pass.

A statement carried by Pars, the official Iranian news agency, said: "The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, fully aware of its international obligations, wishes to assure the international community that Iran shall not spare any effort to keep this waterway in full operation."

The statement added that several unnamed governments were considering intervening in the Gulf conflict under the pretext of concern over the possible closure of the strait.

Today's Iranian assurance, though it has been greatly welcomed by the West, does not mean that the danger to Gulf oil exports is over.

There is still a strong possibility that the conflict could spill over to the southern part of the Gulf, jeopardizing international shipping with the continuing deadlock on the present battle scene, either Iraq or Iran might find it necessary to make a breakthrough elsewhere.

After 10 days of fighting the Iraqis seemed to have been stopped from advancing. The principal cities which Iraq claimed to have conquered are still holding out. These include Ahvaz, the provincial capital of Khuzestan, and the vital port of Khorramshahr. The oil city of Abadan is still under siege.

A broadcast on Abadan radio stated today that street fighting was taking place in Khorramshahr, apparently in an Iraqi attempt to capture the city.

Tehran radio claimed that 21 Iraqi tanks were destroyed and two Iraqi fighter jets shot down during battles in the southern front, near the dis-



puted Shatt al-Arab waterway. Iraq, however, claimed that Iranian jets were shot down during the raid on Baghdad, and the Iraqi MIG fighters counter-attacked by bombing Iranian targets at Ahvaz and Abadan.

French engineers and technicians working on the installation of the Tamuz nuclear reactor near Baghdad have been evacuated to Jordan, according to the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) Murray writes from Paris. The reactor is not believed to have been damaged by a recent Iranian attack.

War reports: Three sailors were killed when Iranian jets attacked three Japanese, Greek and Kuwaiti merchant ships anchored near Basra, a Japanese report from Iraq said today.

Another Japanese report said Iraqi jets had bombed—for the second time—Iran's biggest

industrial project, a petrochemicals plant being built on the Gulf.

Pars reported today that Iranian forces had recaptured the border town of Mehran from the Iraqi Army. The news agency said President Bani-Sadr of Iran had announced the recapture of the city.

Diplomats in Tehran said today Iraqi artillery and aircraft had struck at Andimeshk and Shush in Khuzestan province. The diplomats also reported that Dezful had suffered substantial damage from Iraqi attacks over the past three days.

Iraq said its forces had tightened their grip on Dezful and added its troops would control the city "at any moment" but were giving the enemy an opportunity to surrender before "they were crushed"—Reuters, UPI and AP.

## World View

by Arrigo Levi

## Israel happy to leave centre of the stage

Since the start of the Iran-Iraq war the Israelis have had the unusual feeling of not being "at the centre of things", and they seem to like it.

Leaders of both the Government and the Opposition enjoy telling the foreign visitor that the Gulf conflict shows how wrong is the Western idea that the main cause for the instability of the Middle East must be found in the Arab-Israeli question.

This region is instead a hotbed of many different tensions and conflicts. It is unrealistic to believe that "just by forcing Israel to recognize the PLO and accept a Palestinian state" one would bring full stability to the Middle East. Western oil supplies are threatened by many other dangers.

Some Israelis probably hope that, as a result of Western preoccupation with other Middle Eastern crises, there will be fewer pressures upon Israel to make concessions about the Palestinians.

Mr. Begin, the Prime Minister, also feels that the strategic importance of Israel to the United States has been made clearer. American rejections of his remarks about Israel's readiness to support possible United States military initiatives in the Gulf will not shake his belief that the present conflict has raised Israel's value in the eyes of its main ally.

The present crisis also provides clear evidence about the extraordinary importance of peace between Israel and Egypt. It is impossible to disagree with Mr. Begin when he tells you that this was indeed "a revolutionary achievement" for the whole of the Middle East.

There is no disagreement about all that between the leaders of the Labour Opposition and the Prime Minister. Both sides also share mixed feelings about the possible outcomes of the Gulf war.

Mr. Begin points out: "One knows when and how a war starts, not how it may spread." An indecisive result of the fighting, leaving both sides weaker, could be in the short term, satisfactory for Israel. But there are too many unknown factors in this complex equation.

An Iraqi victory would raise the spectre of a new regional superpower, and one particularly hostile to Israel. But also an Iraqi defeat could have disagreeable consequences. Iraq, in a revanchist mood, might intensify its nuclear programmes, which are particu-

larly worrying to Israel.

To the foreign observer, visiting Israel after a two-year absence, this country's reaction to the Gulf crisis clearly shows the positive effects of peace with Egypt, which is definitely making Israel feel much less isolated and insecure. Again, both Government and Opposition leaders appear to be deeply convinced that this peace is going to last, since it satisfies the vital interests of both countries, and not just because President Sadat is a man to be trusted.

However, there remain, in spite of all that, many deep worries about the country's future. But here, Government and Opposition part company: there is a sharp division of opinion in Israel about the lessons to be drawn from the present crisis, in terms of Israeli policies.

Mr. Begin seems to believe that the question of "Palestinian Arabs" has now been shown to be a matter of only local importance. He feels that the status quo can go on more or less indefinitely, even if no agreement is reached with Egypt and the United States about Palestinian autonomy. He "sits nice and tight" or (as a friend of his jokingly says) "more tight than nice". Mr. Sol Linowitz, the American mediator, finds him an even tougher customer.

The Labour leaders, confident that they will again be in power in 1981, react to the present crisis in an opposite way. The existence of so many tensions and conflicts in the Middle East is taken as proof of the need to act vigorously in order to solve the Palestinian question now.

Only when a comprehensive peace is achieved, they feel, will Israel no longer be threatened by the further crises of the region. The Labour leaders still believe in the absolute moral and political need for Israel to stop ruling over a foreign people, in order to remain a democratic Jewish nation. They believe in partition and hope that by returning most occupied territories they can make peace with the Palestinians.

But while an agreement is still possible today, it might become impossible tomorrow when the quite unpredictable tides of history may have changed beyond recognition the political face of the Middle East. After all, Israel is perhaps still "at the centre of things".

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## OVERSEAS

## Polish union leaders put conditions for dropping strike threat

Warsaw, Oct 1.—Leaders of Poland's independent unions debated tonight whether to bow to a Government appeal to call off their threatened strike action.

Protracted talks between Mr. Mieczyslaw Jagielski, the Deputy Prime Minister, and representatives of the Solidarity group, headed by Mr. Lech Walesa, ended without a commitment by the workers to cancel the strike call.

Instead, the union leaders in Gdansk summoned a meeting of the main board of Solidarity to discuss proposals made by Mr. Jagielski and the other Government negotiators with the strikes.

Solidarity demanded the Government's acceptance of three conditions as its price for calling off the one-hour stoppage on the eve of a crucial meeting of the Communist Party's Central Committee on Saturday.

The conditions were: a clear commitment by the Government to pay the promised wage increases; publication in the official media of unbiased information about the new union; and an order to local authorities to keep agreements made by the national Government and stop obstructing the formation of new unions.

The unions are also threatening to call a general strike on October 20, unless their demands are met by then. Mr. Jagielski travelled to

Gdansk after a television broadcast last night by Mr. Kazimierz Barcikowski, another Deputy Prime Minister, who appealed for the strikes to be called off and accused the unions of jeopardizing the economy.

Mr. Walesa said in a statement: "Our union treats with seriousness the domestic economic situation and we often have stated that the union wants to get out of the crisis. But the condition for this is full implementation of the agreement that we have reached."

Mr. Walesa accused Mr. Barcikowski of contributing to "a campaign of disinformation against the new union." There have been attempts to conduct negotiations with the old unions, by-passing the new ones, that are the real representatives of the workers, he said.

The Communist Party's 143-man Central Committee will meet on Saturday to discuss possible changes in the leadership and new political and economic directions.

In Warsaw, the district court granted legal identity for the Solidarity union by officially registering the organization, representing pilots, hostesses, and ground staff of the state airline.

A court spokesman said that 20 labour organizations had applied for registration, including the Solidarity movement, representing thousands of planes throughout the country. UPI.

## Rewards offer in hunt for Turkish terrorists

From Sinan Fisek

Ankara, Oct 1.—"Wanted" people posters on the walls of Ankara for the first time since 1971, when the kidnappers of the murdered Israeli consul-general in Istanbul were being sought.

Byanders placed on the posters, which carried the photographs and detailed identities of 24 men sought for acts of terrorism which resulted in deaths. The posters promised that "all indications will be kept secret" and that rewards would be given for information leading to arrests.

It was officially announced that General Kenan Evren, the head of state, and the four other members of the ruling National Council would fly to the eastern province of Van tomorrow to attend military exercises there.

The announcement came just a day after the NSC approved the programme of the new civilian government, which is headed by Mr. Bulent Uysal.

The programme is intended to deal with political violence and the country's economic problems, and to set up a democratic order which would function better than the one overthrown by the coup of September 12.

Mr. Uysal promised wide-ranging reforms affecting the bureaucracy, which he said was "discouraged" by the "bureaucratic" lack of balance in the distribution of duties, powers, and responsibilities, over-employment, fruitlessness, unnecessary formalism and red tape.

These "diseases", he said, "constitute the greatest obstacle to Turkey's economic and social development." Red tape "is the main source of bribes and corruption."

The Prime Minister promised legislation to combat terrorism, including a state of emergency law which, he said, would make it possible to "revert the country" without reverting ceaselessly to martial law.

He promised reforms in the security forces, whose discipline would be reinforced, and which would be modernized. His Government would pursue the economic stability programme drawn up by Mr. Turgut Ozal, the Minister of State, in a series of meetings with economic advisers to the ousted government of Mr. Suleyman Demirel. Tax reforms and improved labour relations would be assured to provide the better functioning of the programme.

The economy would remain open to foreign investments and technology.

At the time of General Walls' resignation, there were reports that Mr. Mugabe might make a tour of the South African Commonwealth country as it was virtually impossible to find a black or white Zimbabwean who would be acceptable to the three rival forces represented on the High Command.

Britain will not consider the use of sanctions against South Africa so long as the present negotiations, in which the United Nations-sponsored settlement of the Namibia (South West Africa) are still proceeding.

This was made clear today by Mr. Richard Luce, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign Office, who is making a tour of the Southern African states.

During a meeting with British correspondents Mr. Luce said that there was a "strong prospect" for a settlement in the disputed territory. He stressed that United Nations talks were due to visit South Africa last month in an attempt to get the stalled talks on Namibia started.

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## Wounded Iraqis tell of jet strikes

Continued from page 1

—supposedly safe and long secure in Iraqi hands—was burnt to death yesterday when shells rained down on his convoy.

Not one important Iranian city has fallen to Baghdad and with the exception of the town of Qasr-e-Shirin to the north, all that the Iraqis have captured in 10 days of war is 1,100 square miles of brown, waterless desert, a shabby landscape of rock and sand from which the Iraqis very sensibly withdrew to fight on from the hills.

The casualties from Salamina are the physical token of the Iranian punishment and the strictly guarded military hospital in Basra contains all the evidence one needs to appreciate the extraordinary strength of Iranian opposition to the Iraqi Army.

The Iraqis have never before allowed Western journalists to interview military casualties, but the authorities in Basra today took the unprecedented step of permitting The Times and a BBC television crew to walk through the wards and freely interview wounded soldiers. Our request to see and speak to the injured troops was conceded within two minutes and no attempt was made by the Iraqis to use the occasion for propaganda purposes.

All the casualties told the same disturbing stories, of surprise attacks by Iranian helicopters, gunships, and Phantom jets suddenly swooping upon them from the east. A badly burnt tank crew member described how he heard the sound of jet engines only a second before a rocket hit his tank, covering a quarter of his body in blazing petrol.

A private in the Iraqi Army's transport command was blown from his jeep south of Ahvaz by a rocket fired from an Iranian helicopter and, as he lay in the sand, a Phantom appeared out of the sun and bombed his colleagues.

A 25-year-old infantryman was wounded three times by Iranian snipers.

Major Jamal, the senior anaesthetist at the military hospital, pointed out that there were still empty beds in the wards and that the casualties were only lightly wounded. But the wounds of some of the tank crews are better left undescribed and the Iraqi Army is paying a heavy price for the streets of its President, whose photograph with optimistic face and waving hand greets visitors to the Basra military hospital.

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## Kurds claim attacks

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The spokesman said that the Pesh Merga guerrillas had struck on September 23, the day after war broke out between Iraq and Iran, which also has a large Kurdish minority.

The Iraqi Embassy in London later issued a statement saying that northern Iraq was quiet and that "the so-called subversive activities reported in some quarters are no more than isolated individual acts."

The embassy said the reports of the Kurdish offensive were "propagated by Iranian sources". It added that the Kurds of Iraq had recently held their first democratic election to establish their national rights within a framework of autonomy at a time when Iranian Kurds were being massacred.

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## OVERSEAS

## Battle for Pennsylvania crucial to Republican plan for dominating the Senate by 1982

Patrick Brogan  
Shanghai, Oct 1

Senator Richard Schweiker of Pennsylvania, a Republican, is running for reelection and has to succeed in his bid to win a prominent Democratic seat in Pennsylvania and a prominent Republican seat in Philadelphia. This is as it should be, for the state's leadership is split between the two major parties.

Other Senator, Mr. John J. Chafee, is a Republican, and the Governor, Mr. Thornburgh, is a Republican. The state's leadership is split between the two major parties.

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lucky, than those of less favoured places: both candidates are competent, active, and would make an excellent Senator.

The only other Senate seat now held by Republicans that might fall to the Democrats is New York's, where the first is by far the best bet for the Democrats: Senator Jacob Javits is running as a liberal, with no obvious enthusiasm, after losing the Republican primary. Senator Dole has problems in Kansas, despite his solid Republican tradition (he won by a wide margin in 1974), and Senator Goldwater of Arizona is old and ill. They are both long shots for the Democrats.

Mike Gravel's in Alaska (he lost the Democratic primary).

All the other senators running for reelection are thought safe, even Herman Talmadge of Georgia. They include Daniel Inouye of Hawaii, who will get about 90 per cent of the vote, and Russell Long of Louisiana, who is already reelected.

It would seem difficult for the Republicans to make a net gain of 10 senators, which they need to control the Senate. Mr. Reagan wins, nine would do because Mr. George Bush, the Vice-President, would have the casting vote in a tie, and would exercise it when the Senate divided on straight party lines.

These are rare occurrences. With a few southern conservatives as help, Mr. Ronald Reagan as President could probably get most of his proposed legislation through the Senate, but the real importance of winning control would be to put Republicans in charge of Senate committees.

Senator Magnuson, for instance, has always been thought perfectly safe in Washington, because he is chairman of the Appropriations Committee and can therefore direct an unending and unlimited flow of federal money home. He is 75 and in failing health.

Senators McGovern, Church, Cranston, Durkin, Hart, Bayh and Colver are on the conservative Republican "hit list", because of their support, or failure adequately to oppose, such things as gun control, abortion, and welfare spending. One of the right's victories in 1978 was the defeat of Senator Dick Clark of Iowa. The victor, Roger Jepsen, is a lavatory seat manufacturer.

Senator Colver has a rather more respectable opponent against him, Congressman Charles Grassley, but it will be a fight over personalities, in Iowa as elsewhere.

## US Elections

On the other side, the list of vulnerable Democratic senators is long and illustrious. In recent elections, senators have gone down to defeat in far greater numbers than have Representatives and Democratic leaders concede the likelihood of half "in losses".

The most prominent are Senators George McGovern, of South Dakota, the party's presidential candidate in 1972 and still its leading liberal, facing a challenge from one of that state's two congressmen, Frank Church, of Idaho, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee; John Culver, of Iowa; Alan Cranston, of California; Birch Bayh, of Indiana; and Warren Magnuson, of Washington.

Less prominent, but equally vulnerable, senators are Patrick Leahy, of Vermont, Gary Hart, of Colorado, and John Durkin, of New Hampshire. The Republicans also hope to win Senator Adlai Stevenson's seat in Illinois (he is not running).

## Reagan sees merit in arms race

York, Oct 1.—Mr. Ronald Reagan said that as President he would scrap the strategic situation treaty (Salt 2) allowing a Senate vote on whether the American position was as tough as the Soviet position and seek to open talks with the Soviet Union.

pressure on Moscow by raising "the possibility of an arms race".

The Salt 2 treaty, negotiated and signed by President Carter, "is fatally flawed" and "it isn't arms limitation", Mr. Reagan said. The purpose of an arms accord with Russia was to ensure that "neither one of us can threaten the other".

A new United States arms build-up would put pressure on the Russians to make an acceptable bargain on Salt, he insisted.

"The one card that's been missing in these negotiations has been the possibility of an arms race," Mr. Reagan said. "Now, the Soviets have been racing, but with no competition. He (the Russians) will be far more inclined to negotiate in good faith if he knows that the United States is engaged in building up its military." —AP.



Reagan fundraising: Frank Sinatra

with the Republican presidential candidate, and Mrs. Nancy Reagan at a function in Manhattan which raised \$2.5m for the Reagan election campaign. Together with a similar dinner-party in Los Angeles, the event was shown on television in 21 other cities.

Support came from some of the biggest names in American show business, including Dean Martin and Charlton Heston. Mr. Sinatra sang a medley of five songs and the evening was punctuated with political jokes, including several from Mr. Reagan himself. One of them ran: "President Carter couldn't persuade the Russians to leave Cuba so he's getting the Cubans to leave."

At an electioneering dinner in a Washington hotel President Carter promised: "We're going to whip the Republicans on November 4." He said there was a difference in basic philosophy between Democrats and Republicans. Voters should consider whether they wanted an alienation of blacks and whites, north and south, Christian and Jew and rural and urban populations.

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## Canadian MPs to tackle constitution

From Our Correspondent  
Ottawa, Oct 1

The Canadian Parliament will be recalled next Monday, eight days ahead of schedule, to deal with the Government's plan for constitutional renewal, including "repatriation" of the British North America Act, so making it subject to amendment in Canada rather than at Westminster.

## Peking celebrates without parades

From David Bonavia  
Peking, Oct 1

Peking today celebrated the thirty-first anniversary of communist rule without any of the traditional fairs, sideshows or parades.

The people are being given two days off work—they have no annual holiday—to stroll along streets, visit relatives and crowd into the parks.

The municipal authorities last week instructed them not to visit suburban beauty spots, especially the Fragrant Hills to the north-west of the city, in order to give foreigners and overseas Chinese a chance to visit them in comfort.

Only yesterday morning a huge statue of Mao Tse-tung was cut into blocks and carried away from the building's main foyer.

Hongkong celebrations: For the first time, a Peking minister today attended celebrations in Hongkong of China's National Day (Richard Hughes writes from Hongkong).

## Phnom Penh threat to strike at Thailand

From David Watts  
Singapore, Oct 1

The Kampuchean Government is accusing Thailand of providing air and artillery cover for Khmer Rouge infiltrations across the border.

Phnom Penh gave a warning that its forces would strike if the Thais persisted.

The Foreign Ministry in Phnom Penh said the Thai cover for the Khmer Rouge had been provided on 11 occasions between September 6 and 25 as the Pol Pot forces moved into north-western Kampuchea. It added that the alleged Thai support was "creating a very dangerous situation in the area. If these activities continue, the revolutionary Kampuchean armed forces will strike back against any violation."

For public consumption, the Thai position is that they provide no support to the Pol Pot forces who are concentrated not far from the Thai border.

The Phnom Penh warning is noteworthy because the language is similar to that used in early summer when the Kampuchean regime warned the Thais not to go ahead with the repatriation of Khmer refugees from border camps. That warning heralded a strike against the border area by Vietnamese-led forces on June 23.

The Thais counter-attacked using their superior air and ground troops. Since that time the Vietnamese are reported to have concentrated anti-aircraft guns close to the Thai border.

Today's warning from Phnom Penh coincides with a new flurry of Thai intelligence reports that the Vietnamese have been marking a series of tactical changes on their side of the border.

## 17 killed in gold mine accidents

Johannesburg, Oct 1.—Seventeen black workers were killed in two gold mining accidents in the Transvaal near here today, company officials said.

A lift cage plunged 650ft down a shaft in the Balmoral gold mine, near Germiston, when a cable snapped, and 14 miners died. Three others were killed by a rock fall in a mine near Carletonville.—Reuters.



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Tel: 287383

## Berkhamsted

35 mins Euston. Extremely large beautiful situated house. 217, 100 sq ft. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen, 1 living room, 1 terrace, 100 year lease. Price £137,500.00. Lited carpets and curtains.

**Chester (024 05) 74004.**

## COMMUTING ?

Save money time & temper. 100 sq ft. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen, 1 living room, 1 terrace, 100 year lease. Price £137,500.00. Lited carpets and curtains.

**OAKCROFT ROAD, LEWISHAM, S.E.13.**

1000 semi-detached house in pleasant road near shopping centre and station. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen, 1 living room, 1 terrace, 100 year lease. Price £137,500.00. Lited carpets and curtains.

**MARSH & PARSONS**

727 9411

## HAM COMMON

Richmond. Large sunny detached house with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen, 1 living room, 1 terrace, 100 year lease. Price £137,500.00. Lited carpets and curtains.

**ARCHITECTS** small, quiet, sunny Georgian 3 bedroom house in quiet road. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen, 1 living room, 1 terrace, 100 year lease. Price £137,500.00. Lited carpets and curtains.

**CLAPHAM COMMON** Desirable location. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen, 1 living room, 1 terrace, 100 year lease. Price £137,500.00. Lited carpets and curtains.

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## HIGHGATE N.6

Immaculate modern town house in exclusive area. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen, 1 living room, 1 terrace, 100 year lease. Price £137,500.00. Lited carpets and curtains.

**Sturt & Tivendale**

50/51 HIGHGATE HIGH ST.

Tel: 01-548 8171

## DRAYTON GARDENS, S.W.10

A light spacious house with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen, 1 living room, 1 terrace, 100 year lease. Price £137,500.00. Lited carpets and curtains.

**CHARLES PRICE & CO**

101-103 2222 (24 hrs) 1991 3304

Tel: 287383

## WANDSWORTH

New conversion. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen, 1 living room, 1 terrace, 100 year lease. Price £137,500.00. Lited carpets and curtains.

**SCOTLAND RICHES**

92 RUSSELL ST. S.W.12

Tel: 01-574 4169

## KENT

Period detached house. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen, 1 living room, 1 terrace, 100 year lease. Price £137,500.00. Lited carpets and curtains.

**TENTEN HIGH ST.**

Tel: 01-574 4169

## WEST HAMPSHIRE

Luxury second floor flat in modern building. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen, 1 living room, 1 terrace, 100 year lease. Price £137,500.00. Lited carpets and curtains.

**REAR OF 100, NEWTON ST.**

Tel: 01-574 4169

## PARSONS GREEN

3 bedroom p/b flat with private south facing 55 ft. 2nd terrace. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen, 1 living room, 1 terrace, 100 year lease. Price £137,500.00. Lited carpets and curtains.

**HATHWAYS ESTATE AGENTS**

01-499 5333

## BARGAIN FOR QUICK SALE

100 sq ft. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen, 1 living room, 1 terrace, 100 year lease. Price £137,500.00. Lited carpets and curtains.

**LEYTON, E.10**

Tel: 01-556 1706

## HORNSEY

Modern, bright flat. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen, 1 living room, 1 terrace, 100 year lease. Price £137,500.00. Lited carpets and curtains.

**CLAPHAM COMMON**

Tel: 01-556 1706

## TREDEGAR SQUARE, BOW, E.3.

A rare opportunity to purchase an unimproved house in this beautiful Conservation Area. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen, 1 living room, 1 terrace, 100 year lease. Price £137,500.00. Lited carpets and curtains.

**STRETTONS**

01-538 0626

## STOCKWELL, S.W.9

Grade II listed house. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen, 1 living room, 1 terrace, 100 year lease. Price £137,500.00. Lited carpets and curtains.

**CLAPHAM COMMON**

Tel: 01-556 1706

## CLAPHAM COMMON

Tel: 01-556 1706

## PROPERTY UNDER £25,000

**MAGNIFICENT HOUSEBOAT**

WITH MOORING AND GARDEN IN LITTLE VENICE. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen, 1 living room, 1 terrace, 100 year lease. Price £137,500.00. Lited carpets and curtains.

**WANDSWORTH**

New conversion. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen, 1 living room, 1 terrace, 100 year lease. Price £137,500.00. Lited carpets and curtains.

**SCOTLAND RICHES**

92 RUSSELL ST. S.W.12

Tel: 01-574 4169

## KENT

Period detached house. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen, 1 living room, 1 terrace, 100 year lease. Price £137,500.00. Lited carpets and curtains.

**TENTEN HIGH ST.**

Tel: 01-574 4169

## WEST HAMPSHIRE

Luxury second floor flat in modern building. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen, 1 living room, 1 terrace, 100 year lease. Price £137,500.00. Lited carpets and curtains.

**REAR OF 100, NEWTON ST.**

Tel: 01-574 4169

## PARSONS GREEN

3 bedroom p/b flat with private south facing 55 ft. 2nd terrace. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen, 1 living room, 1 terrace, 100 year lease. Price £137,500.00. Lited carpets and curtains.

**HATHWAYS ESTATE AGENTS**

01-499 5333

## BARGAIN FOR QUICK SALE

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**LEYTON, E.10**

Tel: 01-556 1706

## HORNSEY

Modern, bright flat. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen, 1 living room, 1 terrace, 100 year lease. Price £137,500.00. Lited carpets and curtains.

**CLAPHAM COMMON**

Tel: 01-556 1706

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**STRETTONS**

01-538 0626

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Tel: 01-556 1706

## CLAPHAM COMMON

Tel: 01-556 1706

## PROPERTY UNDER £25,000

**NORWICH**

Semi-detached, 1930s. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen, 1 living room, 1 terrace, 100 year lease. Price £137,500.00. Lited carpets and curtains.

**WANDSWORTH**

New conversion. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen, 1 living room, 1 terrace, 100 year lease. Price £137,500.00. Lited carpets and curtains.

**SCOTLAND RICHES**

92 RUSSELL ST. S.W.12

Tel: 01-574 4169

## KENT

Period detached house. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen, 1 living room, 1 terrace, 100 year lease. Price £137,500.00. Lited carpets and curtains.

**TENTEN HIGH ST.**

Tel: 01-574 4169

## WEST HAMPSHIRE

Luxury second floor flat in modern building. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen, 1 living room, 1 terrace, 100 year lease. Price £137,500.00. Lited carpets and curtains.

**REAR OF 100, NEWTON ST.**

Tel: 01-574 4169

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3 bedroom p/b flat with private south facing 55 ft. 2nd terrace. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen, 1 living room, 1 terrace, 100 year lease. Price £137,500.00. Lited carpets and curtains.

**HATHWAYS ESTATE AGENTS**

01-499 5333

## BARGAIN FOR QUICK SALE

100 sq ft. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen, 1 living room, 1 terrace, 100 year lease. Price £137,500.00. Lited carpets and curtains.

**LEYTON, E.10**

Tel: 01-556 1706

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Modern, bright flat. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen, 1 living room, 1 terrace, 100 year lease. Price £137,500.00. Lited carpets and curtains.

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**CLAPHAM COMMON**

Tel: 01-556 1706



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## THEATRES

**NATIONAL THEATRE** 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

## CINEMAS

**ACADEMY** 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

## THE ARTS



Stan Phillips and Denis Lawson

Photograph by Donald Cooper

## What the West End has needed

Pal Joey  
Alberly

## John Russell Taylor

The last revival of *Pal Joey* I know of was an all-black version which foundered on its way to Broadway a couple of years ago despite the terrific presence of Lena Horne among the principals. The trouble was that the producers, equipped with one of the few sure-fire, time-proof classics of the American musical theatre, thought they knew better: they jettisoned half the score, modernized the script to include a trip to a psychiatric clinic, and then were surprised it did not work.

The great advantage of the present revival, and the prime reason it has negotiated successfully the much more hazardous transition from East End to West, is that everyone involved is happy to concede that Rodgers and Hart and John O'Hara knew best. O'Hara's book is still one of the best crafted ever written for a musical, and, rightly considered, puts the exaggerated claims of innovation and revolution made on behalf of later shows from *Oklahoma!* to *Sweeney Todd* in the proper chastening perspective. Neither Joey nor his older protectress is softened or sentimentalized, and their progression to the comic of which will no doubt come as a surprise to a generation raised on the heavily expurgated Doris Day version. And then there is always the 'sly wit' of 'Den of Iniquity', 'You mustn't kick it around' or 'Do it the hard way', and the delight of 'Zip', one of the

cleverest specialist numbers ever devised to give someone a big chance in a tiny role. It is a show which is not full of hits, like *Oklahoma!* because in the parts, admirable as they are, all really contribute to the whole. So do all the cast in this version, which may have made a star or two (Stan Phillips certainly looks more like a true star than ever before), but relies more on teamwork, and the sort of unbacked casting much more possible on the fringe than in something designed from the start for the West End.

In any case the show seems to have lost nothing in its transfer and, even when tempered by Whistler's aliveness, whilst the inventiveness and spontaneity of his sketches, his illustrations for *Gulliver's Travels* and *The Story of Mr. Korb* by Christabel Abernethy, place him firmly in his beloved eighteenth-century but in the indestructible English graphic tradition of George Cruikshank and Edward Lear. Their virtuosity is dazzling, and they would make quite a show.

## Last night's television

Rex Whistler  
BBC 2

## Michael Ratcliffe

Rex Whistler (1905-1944) emerged from Derek Bailey's informative programme an attractive and worldly figure whose talent combined sophisticated and innocent with a natural humour that defies solemn analysis. Many people will know *The Journey in Pursuit of Rare Meats* painted round the walls of the Tate

Gallery, or Whistler's vision of George IV paying homage to Brighton in the Blue Ribbon of the Carter and almost nothing else, or the reversible faces of suffering and joy in the book *Ho-Ho*, but for an artist whose work is so widely seen today. Something to do with its gentle nature, perhaps. A truly light touch can puzzle the devotees of Gothic and camp. Maria, his wife and writer, Judy, who wisely decided to keep their script simple in order to show as much of Whistler's work as possible, add to talk

with those who knew him well. From his brother Laurence, Sir Cecil Beaton, the Marquis of Anglesea, Lord David Cecil, Dame Ninette de Valois and Whistler's colleagues in the Welsh Guards we heard that he was kind, amusing, elusive and hardworking, a paragon of friendliness and courtesy, and so perhaps he was. Yet there were some of his happiest hours with house in Wilton Park. William Wetton had also worked there, and *Facade* fixed and cracked away at the back of the programme. The analogy was apt.

A comprehensive exhibition adored him, and he them, but he never married and spent his patron Edith Olivier at her seems long overdue, though it may prove as the programme suggested, that all those boneless arcadian hazes do pall in the end, even when tempered by Whistler's aliveness, whilst the inventiveness and spontaneity of his sketches, his illustrations for *Gulliver's Travels* and *The Story of Mr. Korb* by Christabel Abernethy, place him firmly in his beloved eighteenth-century but in the indestructible English graphic tradition of George Cruikshank and Edward Lear. Their virtuosity is dazzling, and they would make quite a show.

Rick Wakeman  
Hammersmith Odeon

## Richard Williams

Now that rock and roll has some history behind it, consideration can be given to determining which artists and artefacts are likely to retain the good qualities they seemed to possess in their first appearance. Even at this short distance, it seems probable that those bearing the hallmarks of simplicity and honesty will most readily attract the attention and study of generations to come.

Potentially, the worst sufferer from time's neglect is the self-styled "progressive rock" of the late sixties and early seventies. Fascinating and sometimes thrilling as much of it was in the time, the early discoveries of, say, Yes and King Crimson even now sound rather absurd in their laboured desire to expand the music's range, they lose the balance between message and form, between aspiration and intellectual means, which allows something as modest as Buddy Holly's *We'll All Be Right* or Sam Cooke's *The Tracks of My Tears* to communicate across the decades.

Rick Wakeman, the renowned keyboard player, is an anomaly, and his musical attitudes were fixed in an era when expanding instrumental techniques dictated the shape of the music, resulting in an almost complete unification of emotional content.

On Tuesday Wakeman led his four accompanying musicians (anonymous hood-carriers whose performances gave every indication of a belief that musical progression came to an end on the day Emerson, Lake and Palmer split up) through extracts from his several solo albums. To his credit, he does not attempt to weigh the music down with indications of profundity, but even so it is very thin stuff.

He is rock's own Samprini, or perhaps the link between Jacques Loussier and Sky. Most of the compositions sounded like "Nur Rucker" arrested in passage back to Tchikovsky: only a simple mood piece called "Sea Ropes" and a delicate piano improvisation on "The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, is Ended" the Vespers hymn, interrupted the barrage.

Sadly his author will not be here to see how his play works for an audience, he came over to discuss the casting at Hammersmith, stayed for a week of rehearsals, decided he could no

longer bear to be away from his wife and young daughter, and promptly returned to Sydney where he hopes they will send him the reviews. Born in Sydney in 1953, Stephen Sewell is the eldest son of a machine fitter.

"At school they said I had literary pretensions, and I began to see myself as the next George Orwell but there didn't seem to be much of a future in that, so after college, I began hanging around with actors in a fringe theatre company, and when they wanted a short play to fill up a double bill I wrote one for them. Then I was on the dole for a while, and eventually I got a playwrighting grant from the Australian Arts Council. I wanted to write about the issues that still condition all our thinking. It's a play about the fight for freedom, but none of my characters were major figures in the 1917 Revolution. They're all low-level party workers who were the raw material for history."

Travellers drew respectful reviews from the serious papers in both Sydney and Melbourne, but was dismissed by the tabloids there as "over-political" and "naïvely violent."

"The violence is there," admits Sewell, "but it is crucial to what the play is about, and the way it's done is a problem for the director and actors rather than me. Over here there's no doubt the standard of acting is a great deal higher than in Australia, and the pressure and tension of rehearsal is a lot greater, even in the first week. Some-

how in Sydney none of it seems to matter quite so much; here I guess there's more at stake, even in a small theatre like Hammersmith, and it makes me very nervous."

The trouble with being a playwright is that when you haven't got a play running you feel as though you're not really alive and when you have you don't want to go near the theatre in case it's going badly. It's a very lonely life. Not that I intend giving it up, though I do sometimes think I ought to take the same old well. There's a terrible danger in leading a purely reflective, writing life and the danger is that you'll dry up unless you have some sort of daily experience. The last fifteen years, good reasons for writing, not always living on Arts Council money; if you have a regular job, like my wife who's a nurse in a health centre, you see things to write about all the time.

Die Entführung  
Norwich Theatre Royal

## William Mann

Glyndebourne Touring Opera is on the road again, this week in Norwich. The productions are those mounted during festival seasons at Glyndebourne, the principal singers mostly those who understudied their parts during the festival, but including some established young artists recruited specially for the tour. The orchestra is the Bournemouth Sinfonietta, the conductors are from the Glyndebourne staff, led by Nicholas Braithwaite.

The repertoire for the tour includes only one opera from this summer's Sussex season, Puccini's *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, much mellified by his colleagues at the time for gratuitous stage business, though I loved it and still do, because it lifts Stepien's naive libretto in visual terms parallel to those by which Mozart immortalized it. The singing of the overture may be foolish, but it is not worse than the gilded cage of turduvians, and the Pasha's bardic, do not distract me from Constanze's singing of 'Marten aller Arten' nor does the production of torturers with sadistic equipment—they are carefully done in this touring production for stages smaller than Glyndebourne.

My major objection is to the comedy of ladders in the introduction to Belmonte's 'Ich habe gaud' at the start of the third act, because the music there is quite serious, and we don't want to see it when the cast has settled down into shape.

to cheapen *Figaro* and *Don Giovanni*, which are achievements of a far superior nature, yet still comic. The strength of Wood's production is that it treats the tyrannical power of the Pasha seriously, and the enterprise of Belmonte's rescue party.

Turkish invaders were real to Mozart's Viennese audience, and today we are bound to relate Osmín and Selim to their Muslim descendants and neighbours, no cause for lament, unless to boast anxious morale.

Glyndebourne's tourist cast has an ardent Belmonte in Keith Lewis, respectable in the Pasha's aspects of the area above-manned, Yvonne Kenny as a staid, brave Constanze, more than decent in her fiendish virtuosity, Roger Bryson, usually Osmín, as Selim, as Osmín, with small but true and grainy bass



## SPORT

## Football

## Forest cannot answer surprise questions asked by Bulgarians

By Norman Fox  
Football Correspondent  
Nottingham F.C. v CSKA Sofia 1  
Nottingham Forest, European Cup holders for the past two years, tested the bitter experience of being knocked out in the first round and on their own city ground. They had never started a European game at home in affairs and were against the Bulgarian champions, who led 1-0 after the first leg, they were found inadequate for the new problem.

So now they know the feelings of Liverpool, whom they eliminated at this stage two seasons ago and who fell at this same stage last season. They have no grounds for complaint, being beaten by their own lack of imagination and finishing strength, as well as a better team on the night.

When Sofia kicked nine passes into their opening movement, the size of Forest's task and the outlook of their history quickly came to light. There was virtually no punning back into a defensive shell. Indeed, very soon Djizov, the leading scorer in the Bulgarian league last season, became the most impressive and forceful forward on view, and he was admirably supported by the most clever constructor of attacks, Markov.

Two strong breakaways by Djizov required severe action by Burns, whose rigour was his own undoing. Flares tackled by the Forest defender twice left him limping and in the second, again when intercepting Djizov, he was unable to get up. After treatment he continued, but in obvious distress. His lack of manoeuvrability seriously undercut Forest's chances and Sofia took advantage.

A few scrambled attempts to score from within a crowded mouth comprised the sum of Forest's efforts during a difficult first half in which Sofia's under-estimated individual skill and physical strength dominated. Gray made brave attempts to make ground from deep in his own half, but Anderson had a torrid evening.

ing generally coping with defensive duties and not moving upfield until well into the second half. In midfield the absence of a true ball winner was again noticeable, while at the front Birtles was given few chances to turn the defenders and Wallace rarely looked dangerous.

So it was a struggle from the beginning and when, after 34 minutes, Sofia took a valuable away goal, Forest started at a disadvantage. Kerimov brilliantly finished a move that began in the Forest goal with a free kick that Yonchev and Djizov relayed up to Kerimov and he scored. He stood by the front of the goal, ready to intercept, but he was slow to intercept. Kerimov went into yards of open space on the left before screwing his shot back behind the goal.

The damage had been done when, for the second half, Lloyd replaced Burns. Just before half-time Markov and Djizov had again scored a goal in the Forest defence when the referee overruled a linesman's offside decision. There was too wide, but the goal was a penalty.

Forest now had to commit themselves to a relentless attack. They pressed Sofia into a penalty area often enough but without sufficient variation. No doubt Anderson was hard done by when pulled down by his shirt and appealed for a penalty, yet it was the now less frequent Sofia attacks that held the greatest promise.

Tackles became more aggressive. Sofia always managed to get adequate cover for their goalkeeper, who did not have to make a truly crucial save, and Forest simply ran out of ideas. In the end they had to thank Shilton for his heroic performance.

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In camera: as Cross heads his second goal, Goddard and company double up as spectators.

## When silence is five times golden

By Stuart Jones

West Ham 5

Castilla 1

To a deafening roar of silence

West Ham United completed their

troubled path through to the second

round of the European Cup

Winners Cup at a deserted Upton

Park last night. Two goals from

Cross, one a looped header, the

other a simple side foot, saw them

home after extra time by an

aggregate of 6-2. As the news

filtered through to the followers

outside, the noise that had been

lacking all night flooded in over

the ghastly stands.

The teams had stepped out to

the lighted arena to a scattering

of polite applause. The vacant

terraces were littered by 16 ball boys

and the invited assembly of 200

gathered in a tight group overlooking

the halfway line. UEFA's

demands that no spectators should

witness the second leg after crowd

trouble in Madrid were met.

The Spaniards, Real Madrid's

junior team, had been in the

second division, may have been

more suited to the empty atmo-

sphere and they wisely tasted it

for 20 minutes before the start.

The strategy was plain. With

the middle of the Cardiff defence

as congested as Oxford Street,

the only obvious way to gain

entry was down the side avenues.

West Ham, who had conceded a

free kick, operated on the right and

the characteristic blend of Brooking

and Devonshire took care of the

left.

Within a quarter of an hour

West Ham had scored the goal

they so badly needed to settle

the nerves. As the night wore

on, a marvellous goal it was, Holland

cut his way through three blue

barriers and rolled the ball back

into the goal. The referee, who

was not even looking at the goal,

was not even looking at the goal,

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was not even looking at the goal,

needed to bring their minds back

to business.

Goals came at frequent

intervals. Souths was brought

down and took the penalty him-

self for his third goal of the

game. Lee, the smallest player

on the field, headed in the next.

Only the crowd, who were

fairly full, the eighth and ninth.

McDermott rounded off the

proceedings by volleying in his third

goal.

Even then, the statistical notes

had not been exhausted. Mika

Juntunen set







## New Books

## On the run in Greenland

Ways of Escape  
By Graham Greene  
(Bodley Head, £6.95)

"How do you visualize your- self?" said the major-general of the Emergency Reserve draft board to Graham Greene in the winter of 1939.

I muttered something about the original advertisement for the reserve having mentioned journalists being among the categories of men required. I had once been a journalist.

"Yes, yes," the general said with a complete lack of interest. "but how do you see yourself?"

It was quite a smart question. The immediate answer, to the board's relief, was "Infantry" (they had been dreading Intelligence, which everyone was asking for, though they put him in the end). A more timeless answer would be something like "in the mirror, with a merciless eye" (only the novelist who learns to know himself can make his characters live): whilst from his rather disappointing new book of autobiography, *Ways of Escape*, the general would have concluded that the writer sees himself, as the title suggests, as perpetually on the run. The theme of escape is itself through- out.

On the run from what? From failure and success, from boredom and fear, routine and "the deathmask" reputation. From labels ("Catholic novelist", "detestable term") and the "contamination" of vulgar fame: admirers of *The Heart of the Matter* pursued him with their sexual and spiritual problems to the lanes of Annapolis itself, testing his Christianity to the full.

Writing itself, of course, is an idea form of escape, unless you happen to be a writer, in which case there comes a time when you have to escape from writing, too. How creatively and productively Greene did this is the story of *Ways of Escape*.

It is an economical enter- prise, all time, sharp scissors

and a nice class of pasta. Nearly all the material has been published before, and nobody is pretending that it has not. To the 21 autobiographical pre- faces of the handsome Col- lected Edition which has been appearing over the past 10 years—*Travels with my Aunt* (Harcourt, £10.95), *The Honorary Consul* (Harcourt, £10.95), *The End of the Affair* (Harcourt, £10.95), *The Power and the Glory* (1940) was never envisaged as a con- sequence of *The Lawless Roads* (1939). As melodrama and farce took over contemporary history almost completely, the original distinction between his "novels" and his "entertain- ments" grew so faint that he ceased to make it altogether and younger readers will prob- ably wonder why it was ever made in the first place. There is, he insists, no such territory as Greenland: there is only one world in which we all live and die.

This must surely be the first time a writer has had identical texts published—the prefaces to *Travels* and the *Consul* have not appeared before—in two separate settings and format on the same day. Bibliophiles might care to know that the novels in the Collected Edition are set by William Clowes (Beccles) Ltd in Monotype Ehrhardt and that *Ways of Escape* is set in Monotype Ehrhardt from Thomson Litho Ltd of East Kilbride. They will certainly wonder why Thomson's favour an acute accent on the final letter of Panama, whilst Clowes do not, and why, when they come to the languages of Paraguay, Guarani, the positions of Suffolk and Scotland are reversed. A faint feeling of leg- pull lingers over the deceptive candour of Mr Greene's act of book-making. I suspect that Aunt Augusta and Mr Viceroy had more than a hand in it somewhere. Was she not always urging her nephew to make the most of himself?

Michael Ratcliffe

## Old soldier

The Portrait of a General  
By John Colville  
(Michael Russell, £6.95)

The general is Sir Charles Colville, great grandfather of the author (and incidentally a great great grandfather of Lord Carrington, the present Foreign Secretary), who commanded first a brigade, then a division against the Peninsular Wars and at Waterloo.

"The portrait" has a double meaning. For 20 years Sir John Colville, pestered by a museum in Atlanta, Georgia, to exchange his Raeburn painting of his ancestor for a portrait by Sir Winston Churchill—who had offered it to help effect a swap. After half the transatlantic establishment had inter- ceeded, including the Coca-Cola company, the museum surren- dered, and the portrait of the general was sent to the author's house in London.

His great grandfather would have been satisfied with the result, and so should we be. Charles Colville was very much a "working" general, who served King and country valiantly and well, but never managed to be in the right place at the right time to secure a place in history.

He was a prolific letter-writer, and it is these letters, reflecting the life and times of a commander in Wellington's army, which justify the bio- graphy. At one time he is rejoicing in the bouillie and jugged hare, at another sigh- ing over the struggle to secure Portuguese nursing for his wounded, at another lamenting the loss of friends after some appalling slaughter or foisting over his career. There is a letter from Wellington, ticking him off for saving some money from 800 lashes. In return there is a far more flattering description of Wellington by Colville's sister-in-law: "His hair is grey and his teeth not good... he is stout made with broad shoulders; his figure is best or horseback, his best being fine."

None of the later letters quite matches the marvellous detail of those which he wrote home when as a boy of 15 he travelled by stage coach to Versailles to improve his French and his manners in the court of Louis XVI.

Perhaps Sir John should not have been a biographer of his grandfather (General Charles's son) who seems to have led a still more active life. Among his accomplishments was the seduction of Lady Cardigan, wife of the man who later led the Light Brigade at Balaclava. It did not do him much harm. He was transferred to the Con- sideration Guards, served as a volunteer, then acted as Lord Chamberlain to Queen Alex- andra at the coronation of Edward VII.

Henry Stanhope

## Quick guide

Studies in English Linguistics for Randolph Quirk, edited by Sidney Greenbaum, Geoffrey Leech, and Jan Svartvik (Longman, £18). This festschrift by his friends and colleagues cele- brates the 60th birthday of the witty and well-known man who pioneered the notion of study- ing English in the classroom, rather than as it is written according



Six Byzantine Emperors from a fourteenth-century manuscript: (top row) John II, Manuel I, and Alexios II; (bottom row) Andronikos I, Isaac II, and Alexios III. From *The Byzantine Empire* by Robert Browning (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £8.95), a lucid, scholarly, and prettily illustrated little history of the thousand years of the forgotten empire that is the umbilical cord to our classical past.

## Forgotten forefathers

The Etruscans  
By Michael Grant  
(Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £17.50)

Byzantium  
The Empire of New Rome  
By Cyril Mango  
(Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £17.50)

Under the Anglo-Saxon kin as well as the skin we are Romans in our past that it blots out our less dominant ancestors. These two recruits to Weidenfeld & Nicolson's "Forgotten Forefathers" series are a most readable scholarly popularizers, uncover the latest news about the Etruscans and Byzantium.

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still cannot grasp the funda- mental structure of their lan- guage—*Vixere fortes ante Agamemnona*. The Byzantines left 50,000 manuscripts in Greek alone, far too many even for the most diligent student.

The Etruscans were superlatively pleasure-loving, art-loving, and a reputation for obesity and sloth in the ancient world.

Their women, in their very un-Greek braids, seem to have been much freer than in Greece and Rome. On slender, elegant, dear old Theodor Mommsen pro- nounced that the depravity of Etruscan women "in no way fell short of the worst known of the ancient world."

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## A positive push to help television women find their niche

A pioneering project, the first of its kind in this country, has begun at Thames Television to improve the position of women at work by positive discrimination. It is being carried out by the National Council for Civil Liberties, with the company's cooperation, as part of a wider programme to make use of the Sex Discrimination Act and to do something about the widening pay gap between men and women.

The research will look at the feasibility of carrying out such an exercise in the area of racial as well as sex discrimination: it will involve finding out what jobs women and blacks do, drawing up a programme of action within a company or organization to improve training opportunities and to set a target for the number of women in certain jobs by a particular date, and monitoring whether or not that is carried out.

Thames Television is the only organization to have agreed to take part in the positive discrimination programme to date. This part of the research is being funded by the Equal Opportunities Commission. Other elements of the project are being funded by the Commission for Racial Equality.

Ms Sadie Roberts, a barrister and the NCCL's consultant on the Thames project, said women employees were very interested in the idea. As a result, the way to improve monthly pay rises, to discover their grievances, whether they were more interested, for example, in better technical training or in more child care.

Women were entirely excluded from certain jobs in television, she said. At Thames there were no female camera operators and no women in the sound or lighting departments. That was due to "institutionalized" discrimination, the fact that they had perhaps studied particular subjects at school, and did not have the necessary qualifications.

"What one has got to do, given a commitment to equality of opportunity by a company, is to introduce training schemes to overcome this," said Ms Roberts. A little town section of the Sex Discrimination Act of 1975 does in fact enable an employer to give women in a particular job to take a sabbatical action to encourage women.

This can include sending lecturers to schools to encourage girls to do subjects they might not normally study, improving child care arrangements, and providing specific training schemes.

The NCCL's project comes at a time of increasing "targeting" throughout the world in positive discrimination policies. The United States has accepted the concept for some time, and American courts have been active in forcing companies, such as Greyhound Bus, and the Bank of America, to encourage the recruitment and promotion of women. Policies have been drawn up and enforced and companies persuaded to set goals of, say, how many women would be in certain kinds of jobs by a particular time. The EEO has now decided to draft a directive on positive discrimination.

All this has sound foreign and, probably, analogous to the British case, and the NCCL researchers are anxious to talk in terms of targets rather than quotas, which are anyway outlawed under the Sex Discrimination Act. They are looking around for another three to five companies or organizations willing to take part in developing a positive discrimination policy.

So far the difficulties have been mainly in persuading managements to co-operate. At a time of financial stringency, when economic rather than political or social considerations are paramount, Mrs. Ann Sedley, the NCCL's women's rights officer, and Ms Elizabeth Ball, who is running this particular project, would like to work with a hospital and a factory.

The group had a particular lever with Thames: the company had signed Camden Council's equal opportunities policy and, with the franchise for the fourth television channel soon up for grabs, was presumably concerned about its image.

An NCCL pamphlet on positive discrimination will be published before this year and an international conference will be held on the subject next April. This conference is being financed by the Ford Foundation and the German Marshall Fund and will be addressed by speakers from all over the world.

Researchers are convinced that positive discrimination programmes are the only way that women can progress from badly paid menial jobs to levels from which they have been entirely barred in the past.

Lucy Hodges

## The Times Cook



Shona Crawford Poole

If you go down to the woods today, you will find a big surprise. Mushrooms, not teddy bears, are your quarry. You had better know their many disguises. For it is at this time of year that most of the 200 edible varieties of Britain's native 5,000 species of fungi are to be found.

As Sunday television programmes like *The Rotten World* about us show in a diverting and revealing detail, even experts sometimes need reassurance about what is edible and what is not. And as experts will admit, some of the edible varieties, though harmless, are so weirdly looking, except for strictly nourishing purposes, I do not much fancy a wayward chomping through a giant puffball, how cunning its preparation.

Field mushrooms, the wild version of the cultivated mushroom, and oyster mushrooms, which look as if they were picked up from the ground, are the only ones I trust myself to pick. Apart from the wonderfully flavoured morel which wears its honeycomb pattern on the outside and appears, unpredictably, in spring and early summer.

Cultivated button mushrooms, sold all year round, do not have as much flavour as their wild brethren. The flat, open mushrooms widely available at this time of year should be cheaper than button mushrooms, and much tastier.

The taste of an open mushroom, grilled with garlic, parsley and butter, is so splendid, and superior to snails given the same treatment, that I would never now dream of bothering to cook that delicacy known in the Midlands as *spottish*. That is, not to say there is no occasion when they are a real treat as

## Not animal or vegetable, but edible

long as someone else has fiddled over them. Recipes in which mushrooms predominate tend to be simple. The ingredients which enhance them, worked out long ago, are hard to improve on, and apparent innovations can often be traced to other cuisines: butter is an easily prepared, superfluous, if it were not from the hand of Eliza Acton whose *Domestic Cookery for Private Families* was first published in 1845.

Mushrooms are better (Delicatus). Cut the stems from some fine meadow mushrooms, and clean them with a bit of new flannel, and some dry with a soft cloth, or rinse them in fresh water, drain them quickly, spread them in a clean cloth, fold it over them, and leave them for ten minutes, or more, to dry. For every pint of them thus prepared, put an ounce and a half of fresh butter into a thick iron saucepan, shake it over the fire until it just begins to brown, throw in the mushrooms, continue to shake the saucepan over a clear fire that they may not stick in it, or burn, and when they have simmered three or four minutes, strew over them a little salt, some cayenne, and pounded mace; stew them until they are perfectly tender, heap them in a dish, and serve them with their own sauce only, for breakfast, supper, or luncheon.

Nothing can be finer than the flavour of the mushrooms thus prepared: and the addition of any liquid is far from an improvement to it.

They are very good when drained from the butter, and fried cold, and in a cool larder may be kept for several days. The butter in which they have stewed is admirable for flavouring gravies, sauces, or soups. Small flaps, freed from the fur and skin, may be stewed in the same way, and either these, or the buttons, served under roast poultry or partridges, will give a dish of very superior relish.

In one of her inimitable foreshadowings, Miss Acton continues: "Persons inhabiting parts of the country where mushrooms are abundant, may send them easily, when thus prepared, to their friends in cities, or in less productive countries. If poured into jars, with sufficient butter to cover them, they will travel and

lance, and can be re-warmed for use." Anyone who has not tasted a good, home-made mushroom soup should do so without delay. The following recipe is especially good, when made with open mushrooms, and serves some stock. When I make it, with button mushrooms and light stock, a tablespoon of cornflour, thickening seems appropriate—but it is entirely a matter of taste.

**Cream of mushroom soup**  
Serves four  
30g (1oz) butter  
1 large onion, finely chopped  
450g (1lb) mushrooms, preferably open field mushrooms, but any will do, sliced  
1 litre (1 1/2 pints) stock, game, duck, or chicken  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper  
1 tablespoon soy sauce  
150ml (1 pint) double cream

Melt the butter in a heavy pot and fry the onion until it is soft, but not browned. Add the sliced mushrooms, cover and sweat until the mushrooms are tender and have released their juices. Add the stock, season with salt, pepper and soy sauce, and bring to the boil. Cover and cook gently for about 20 minutes.

Puree the mixture by passing it through a sieve or processing it briefly in a blender or food processor. Return the soup to the pan and stir in the cream. Check the seasoning and reheat, to just below boiling point. Serve immediately.

**Mushrooms with small butter**  
Serves four  
4 very large open mushrooms or 8 smaller ones  
110g (4oz) softened butter  
2 cloves garlic, peeled and chopped  
At least 4 tablespoons chopped parsley  
Juice of half a lemon  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Peel the mushrooms and cut off the stalks flush with the caps. Smear the peeled surface with a little butter and arrange the mushrooms, butter side up, in a grill pan.

Combine the remaining butter with the garlic, parsley, lemon juice, salt and pepper and reduce the mixture to a smooth paste with a pestle and mortar or food processor.

Grill the mushrooms on a medium heat. When the tops are cooked turn them over and spread the garlic butter over the grilled surface. Grill until cooked through, raising the grill pan nearer the heat to finish them.

Serve the mushrooms just as they are, or with a sprig of parsley in the centre of each one, and fresh crusty bread.

Mushrooms, cooked with cream or sour cream, flavoured sometimes with herbs (dill is a favourite) may be served on toast or fried bread as a snack, or savoury, or, on their own, as a vegetable. The full flavour of coriander seeds, used in the next recipe, is released only when the seeds are heated.

**Mushrooms with coriander**  
Serves four  
225g (8oz) button mushrooms  
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice  
3 tablespoons olive oil  
1 rounded teaspoon of coriander seeds, crushed  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Wipe the mushrooms, trim the stalks, and quarter or slice them thickly. Sprinkle them with half the lemon juice.

Heat 2 tablespoons of the oil in a heavy frying pan and add the crushed coriander. Almost immediately add the mushrooms, bay leaves, salt and pepper. Shake the pan on a low heat, then cover and cook the mushrooms until tender, without allowing them to brown.

Tip the mushrooms, bay leaves, and all the juices into a shallow serving dish. Drizzle over them the remaining oil and lemon juice. Serve hot or cold as a first course, or with plainly grilled poultry, lamb or pork.

In *Kitchen Essays* reprinted from *The Times* in 1922, Lady Jekyll wrote: "Some people abstain from sweets as certain seasons, on grounds of religion or health, but seek compensation for their self-denial in salty savouries: others never eat sweets because they dislike them; and by many a dinner which does not include both sweet and savoury is thought, even in these days of shortened meals, to be a little disappointing."

Mushrooms, she says, are useful for savouries, but great care must be exercised in their selection, and any sale or doubtful ones rejected. American cuisine has invented special Pyrex glass saucers with bell glasses fitting over them, in which mushrooms are cooked very simply in salt, pepper, cream and butter, so as to retain their juices and sugar's flavour, but this might be thought too profuse a savoury for the end of a varied dinner, when these little *Croûtes de Champignons* would be considered daintier.

"Make a purée by frying about 1lb mushrooms, or steaming them in some butter. When cooked, pass through a wire sieve, mix with a little stiff béchamel sauce, salt, and pepper, heap this on some fried or toasted croutons of bread, and on the top of each little mound place a small, whole, grilled mushroom and serve very hot."



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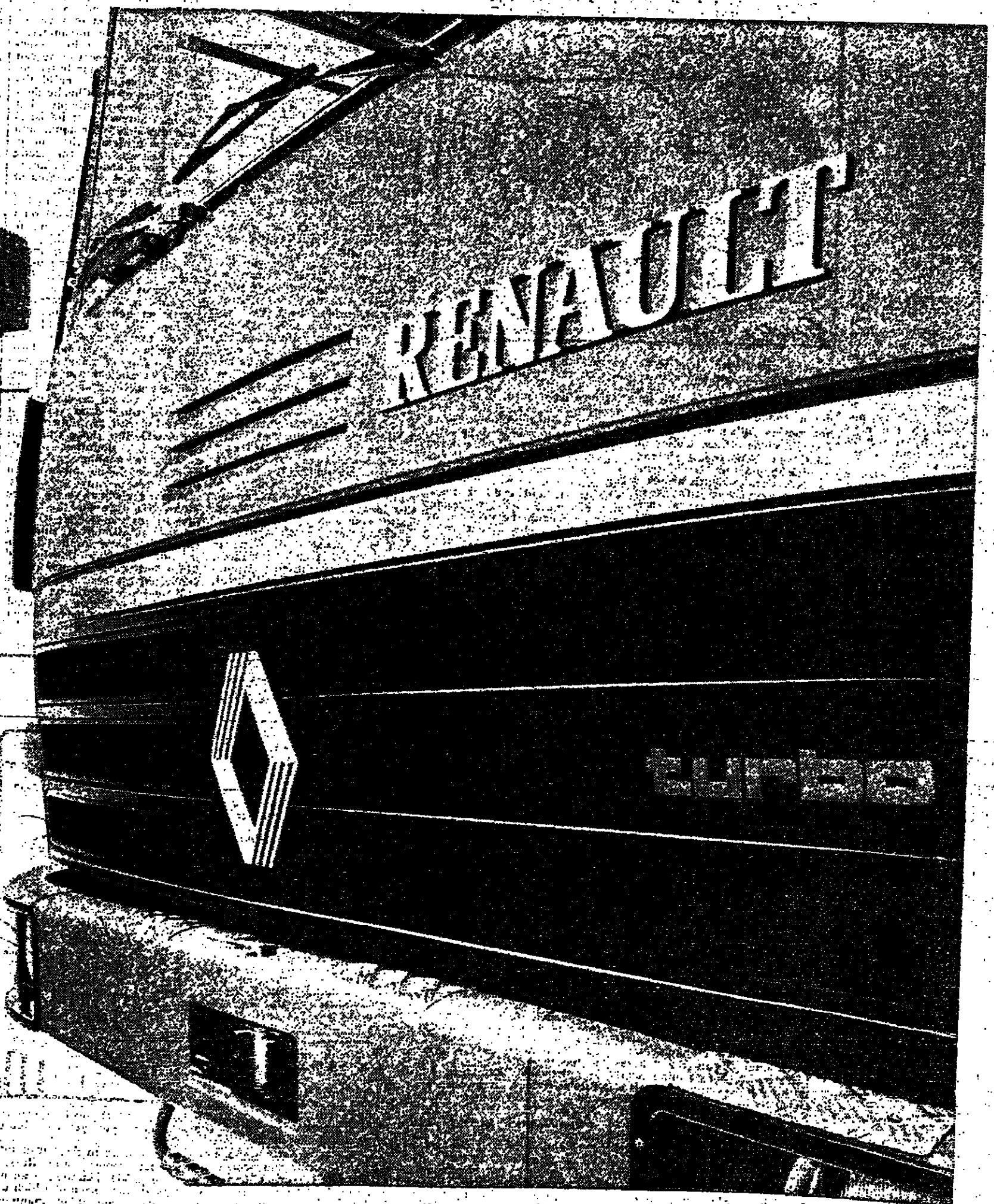
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The Labour Conference has so far provided two of the most outrageous examples of the party has ever experienced. At a time when the Government is running into considerable difficulty, when the principal Opposition party has every opportunity to be riding high, the Labour has proceeded to elect a completely irresponsible, anarchic and irresponsible executive committee with even more of a left-wing majority than the previous one. It has passed a constitutional amendment that will weaken the authority of the party's MPs. And it has produced a shambles over the method of electing the party leader.

## AN FLEET STREET SAVE ITSELF?

the tombstones of Fleet at," write one word: "de." Those were the coming words of the leading paper we published on Saturday June 28, which gave precise intimation of the inevitability of Fleet Street closures, unless there was a radical change in the ownership between traders and managements, a new union among trade unions and a unity between publishers. It happened. The *Evening News* was the first newspaper to succumb to the decline of Fleet Street. That leaves seventeen of which at least nine are still operating at a loss. There is no commercial law says that London cannot support two evening newspapers. True that the circulation of *Evening News* had fallen very low; a number of years ago had recently been an element in its editorial policy, and it had its own circulation larger than that of successful provincial newspapers. The problem was partly the recession in advertising. Associated Newspapers, my experienced publishers, they have seen their way through now, and put a new era of advertisements on in the past. The chief of the *Evening News*, was the rest of Fleet Street, was its costs which were so large losses had been

come inevitable; there was no prospect of bringing the paper back into balance.

If the *Evening News* had been published on the same basis as evening newspapers in North America or in many European cities, or even on that of the most efficient provincial cities in England with modern equipment and proper managing standards, it would not have incurred these costs. The unions had made concessions to try to save the paper, but costs were still too high. If the rest of Fleet Street were able to operate on modern standards of commercial efficiency, then none of the Fleet Street titles would be in serious danger and most would be in profit, even in a recession.

When a title dies, it is natural that those who work in newspapers should feel both sad and angry. It would of course be hypocritical to say that all titles are of equal value. There are, nowadays, one or two mass circulation newspapers published which contribute little or nothing to the life of Britain; yet the *Evening News* was a respectable evening newspaper, if not an inspired one. It leaves London with, at least for the time being, no competition in the evening newspaper field.

It is, nevertheless, no use people being angry about an event which is the inevitable outcome of the failure of Fleet Street to reform itself. Three

on the findings of the polls the Government Labour opposition are neck and neck in the election campaign. Critical politicians plainly believe that the Labour in overturn the Liberal Party majority of forty-n the 124-seat Lower (It will be 125 in the use.) There is more dis- to think that the third Australian Democrats, a balancing vote in the half of which is also i on October 18. But, n such a constitutional s-ended the Whitlam rion, the Senate result, can hardly affects day- mes.

is because the result- is so certainly a re- fandidate for Mr. Fraser, eign has so far genera- ively little excitement. real issue is unemploy- ough this, of course, question the whole of r's free market econo- y. He is vulnerable n 1975 he indulged too undertakings to reduce ment was reward- ed present content.

Now he passes the for world recession,

to which Labour reacts with accusations of mismanagement, and makes what play it can with gloomy reports that thousands of families are falling below the poverty line (as drawn in a rich country) and a seventy per cent growth in actual destitution.

The credibility of Labour challenge is blunted by defeatism. This is mainly a hangover from the failures of the Whitlam years, but derives also from the fact that in the postwar period the Australian voter has somehow shown a basic conservatism that keeps the Liberal-CP coalition in power federally despite its many vicissitudes. That coalition has represented the Australians the success their country has shown itself to be, as an expanding nation and economy in the past forty years. And the success story continues despite recession and 340,000 unemployed for foreign capital pours into the country as its immense natural resources, including energy, are progressively revealed.

Mr. Bill Hayden, the Labour leader, is promising to tax these eager foreigners and to keep a controlling equity in the operations, besides offering a lot more spending, and espousing another shorter working week.

te brainpower  
-salmon Digs  
ening, perusal of the list  
of medical graduates of  
iversity in today's *Times*  
indicates, a surprise  
of women. Of course,  
have to know the num-  
bers. But it is not hard  
to find out. The *Times*  
examines, but it seems unlikely  
that there was a preponderance of  
girls studying law, medicine or  
pharmacy. Yet in law, 100 women  
graduated in 1964, and only four  
men; in pharmacy eight women to  
five men; and in medicine (while I  
find one or two names somewhat  
unfamiliar) 117 women to each  
man. One at least can safely assume

over the past few days, could retain the respect of the public and herself if she were to fight the next election on behalf of a party committed to withdrawal from the Community.

It is ironic that Labourg's promoters should not be looking to another referendum as a possible compromise, and that this should be rejected by anti-marketisers who were so keen on the idea in 1974-5. Another possibility would be simply to hope that whoever leads the party at the next election would have the good sense and the authority to prevent a commitment to withdrawal being included in the manifesto. Although yesterday's resolution was passed by the two-thirds majority necessary for it to become official party policy, it does not have to be included. It might also be argued that the decision of the conference yesterday not to put responsibility for the manifesto solely in the hands of the National Executive

## Iraq-Iran war

From Mr. ALIREZA AROUZI and others  
SP. As Iranian's concerned about the future of our country, we are asking you to act which by our standards, legal or moral, must be termed as "aggression", passed with so little condemnation by the political leaders and the press of this country.

It requires no sympathy for the government in Tehran to recognize that an attack by one state on another, however objectionable to the government, is a flagrant violation of international law and any code of civilized conduct between nations.

The indolent emphasis in British and indeed all Western, media on the flow of oil, regional stability and security obscures the fundamental reality that one state has attacked another, and that it has not been condemned for doing so. The pretence which such a self-serving and hypocritical attitude will put in the hands of governing international relations is terrifying.

Yours faithfully,  
ALIREZA AROUZI  
IRAJ BAGHERZADEH,  
KEWMAKS BOZORGMEHR,  
HAMID ENAYAT,  
CYRUS KHANI,  
TAYEB KAZEM

of the few redeeming features of the conference to date, it would be unwise to put any confidence in such a strategy.

It is unrealistic to expect that any leader in opposition will have the personal authority to disregard such a clear expression of the party's will on a matter of the first importance—unless it is reversed at another conference before the election. If Labour is to be saved as a party worthy of national respect the battle will have to be fought within the movement well in advance of the election on the substance of policy, not only on Europe, but also defence (there will be some critical votes on that today) and other issues. It is no use just trusting that all would be well once Labour were back with the responsibility of office.

From Sir M. K. M. White  
Sir, Your correspondents on the nationally White Paper (September 22) and continue to be congratulated on drawing attention to that document and some of its effects. When it was published (Cmd 7987 - July 30, 1968) the columns of this newspaper gave much space to the issues, even including a leadership publicity was entirely appropriate. It is a pity that the fundamental changes proposed. It may be argued that an Act based on the White Paper would involve greater changes in nationality law than any single previous statute, so far as the United Kingdom is concerned. Yet this year has been almost entirely lacking.

Your public correspondents who write from the Falkland Islands Office note that Falkland Islanders will receive "second class citizenship". That the White Paper proposes a "second class citizenship" for them and others is undeniable.

Royal Commissions, the Economist Intelligence Unit Report, and countless informed articles and research papers, have argued that the present number of titles and jobs could not be maintained unless Fleet Street was prepared to modernize its equipment and raise its productivity. High productivity is a necessary condition to avoid overmanning, but it tends to create additional employment by allowing newspapers to operate successfully on reasonable costs. All the papers that are still under threat in Fleet Street urgently need to raise their efficiency. The recession shows up their weaknesses, but the crisis is in their costs.

It is tragic that the 1977 "Programme for Action" which was agreed by the TUC, by the print unions and by the publishers, was turned down by votes on the shop floor. That programme, which would have allowed new equipment to be brought in in an orderly way, could have saved the *Evening News*. It is still open—even after this tragic delay—for Fleet Street to reform itself. The death of the *News* should show that the inevitable consequence of failing to do so. The question that the unions are asking is whether Mr Murdoch will start another evening newspaper. It would be very welcome if he did, but he would be breaking up so on the grounds of the higher standards of manliness and cost.

on 9-day fortnight. Yet he has felt his personality is insignificant to impress the electorate without buttressing. A safe seat has been found for Mr Bob Hawke, the former president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions and personality of immediate potency in Australia. Yet behind him Mr Hayden has lined up the charismatic figure of Mr Wran, the "Macho" South Australian Labour Premier, as chairman of the party, though not as a federal candidate. Mr Hawke's future in parliament seems assured. But his name is not quite come, and this juggling together of a Labour brand trust has an aura of self-distrust.

The voters have broadly chosen between the Fraser view of the world and the Hawke idealism that "world recession" far better than most. But that under Labour it would soon have the worst of it with twenty per cent inflation on top; and the Labour view that Mr Fraser's monetarism has failed so that only Labour-generated and planned expansion and employment can fulfil Australia's own richer economic

romise. This, echo of political  
lection controversies in Britain,  
ough in a richer environment,  
akes the Australian verdict of  
ore than academic interest  
ere.

that they are the superior sex in-  
tually. It would be beneficial  
all concerned if we could have  
n accurate analysis made.

Yours faithfully,  
GRAHAM DON,  
4 Celia Close,  
Bletchley, Buckinghamshire.  
eptember 23.

house of Commons.

**Surviving ice houses.**  
*From Mr. Graham Binns*  
Sir, There is an ice house cut into  
the rock at the back of Ruskin's  
old house, Brantwood. When I was  
a boy an old outdoor servant of  
Ruskin's called Wilkinson, lived in  
the lodge there. He told me that  
when Ruskin became crochery and  
disabled toward the end of his life,  
Mrs Severn, his cousin, would have  
him wheeled in there to cool off.  
Yours faithfully,  
GRAHAM BINNS,  
14 Elsworth Terrace,  
Primrose Hill, NW3.

From Mr. **ALIREZA AROUZI** and others:  
50. As Iranians concerned about the future of our country, we are amazed that an act which by its nature and legal character must be termed as "aggression", passed with so little condemnation by the political leaders and the press of the United Kingdom.  
It is regrettable that sympathy for the government in Tehran to recognize that an attack by one state on another, however objectionable it is, is not a flagrant violation of international law and any code of conduct between nations.  
The indolent emphasis in British and indeed all Western, media on the flow of oil, regional stability and security obscures the fundamental principle that one state has attacked another, and that it has not been condemned for doing so. The precedent which such a self-serving and hypocritical attitude will set in the standards governing international relations is terrifying.  
Yours faithfully,  
**ALIREZA AROUZI**  
**IRAJ BAGHERZADEH**  
**KEMWARS BOZORGMEHR**  
**HAMID ENAYAT**  
**CYRUS GHANI**

From Mr K. M. White  
Sir, Your correspondents on the  
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that the White Paper was based on  
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changes in national law than any  
single previous statute, so far as  
the United Kingdom is concerned.  
Yet public debate has been almost  
entirely lacking.

Those of your correspondents who write from the Falkland Islands Office note that Falkland Islanders are not mentioned in the "White Paper". That the White Paper proposes a "second-class citizenship" for them and others is undeniable. It also proposes a "third-class citizenship", bereft it seems of all legal rights, for some who are presently British subjects of the United Kingdom Colonies. Some citizens are further, be entirely stripped of such citizenship. Can this be a matter of indifference to the general public?

Space does not admit a detailed critique to the White Paper. Suffice it to say that the Government is simply to cut adrift all responsibilities remaining from colonial days with little regard for the needs and wishes of those most concerned.

There is more or less no discussion as to the purpose of nationality or citizenship, or as to the legal, international obligations on the matter.

Will such proposals become law  
without further discussion?  
Yours faithfully,  
ROBIN M. WHITE,  
University of Dundee Faculty of  
Law,  
Park Place,  
Dundee.

from Mr. Fred Silverer, MP for  
Winthorpe (Conservative)

Sir, The letter from Jonathan Aitken  
and others (September 25) says that  
if we allow the right of individual  
petition to the European Commis-  
sion of Human Rights to lapse next  
January, it would be "embarrassing  
to governments". That is true. It is  
a nuisance for any government in  
the matter raised. It is  
regarded as an unnecessary compli-  
cation when so many other issues of  
great importance in economic and  
foreign affairs need its attention. So

protecting the individual from excessive power and of safeguarding the minorities within a state are not new ideas. They have been the basis of great myths for centuries and there is no reason to suppose that the democratic and alien procedures involved in Strasbourg have provided the ultimate solution to the problem. There is no evidence that the individual has been freed and enslaved by the abolition of the right to be abandoned them.

What is certain, however, is that since 1956 we have acquired in a genuine constitutional innovation without parliamentary debate or approval. What would the three MPs who decided to leave Strasbourg say if we were to propose that the United Kingdom should set up a Supreme Court with power to overrule Parliament, and that we should do it without statute or parliamentary approval? They would regard such a proposal as a monstrous idea. Yet we continue to allow just that.

The Commission and Court were set up by treaty which is not subject to parliamentary scrutiny. It is basic that those who want Strasbourg as a platform against executive power should applaud a system which depends entirely on executive authority for its institution and continuance.

Our faithful,

J. SILVESTER,

from Mr. Graham Binns.  
There is an ice house cut into  
the rock at the back of Ruskin's  
home, Brantwood. When I was  
boy an old outdoor servant of  
huskin's called Wilkinson lived in  
the lodge there. He told me that  
when Ruskin became crochery and  
strayed toward the end of his life,  
his servant, his cousin, would have  
him wheeled in there to cool off.  
Sincerely,  
RAHAM BINNS.  
Elsworth Terrace,  
Primrose Hill, NW3.

From Mr. Edmund Esdaile  
Sir, England constitutionally is and  
has always been tripartite, consist-  
ing of the Commons, the Nobles, and  
the Clergy. A mixed Constitution in  
which the elements are harmoni-  
ously blended and balanced is of all  
constitutions the healthiest, and  
the most stable. But if these ele-  
ments become either excessive or  
deficient the health of the whole  
suffer. In our history the  
most common and one of the most  
marked anomalies is, that the Nobles  
and gentry; now, if the socialists  
were to achieve their aim, the claim-  
ant would be the Commons.

Now, to make the health of the  
body politic healthy, the Commons  
now need to be insured against  
excess and it is quite untrue to  
imply that the Commons, unlike the  
Crown three centuries and more ago

vision. I am struck by one visual  
impression. Most of the delegates  
are like people attending an  
ordinary business or professional  
gathering. But there are exceptions.

If a young man goes to the  
construm and is not wearing a tie,  
he can be certain of two things:  
first, he represents a constitutional  
party and not a trade union; second,  
he will proceed to utter extreme  
left-wing opinions. From the con-  
ventional descriptions of the  
followers of Robespierre, we derive  
the useful word *sans-culottes*.  
Should the followers of Mr. Tony  
Benn (*ex-député* Viscount Stansgate)  
be styled *sans-cravates*?  
Yours truly,  
M. BLOOF.  
St Antony's College,  
Oxford.  
September 30.

no: be or become excessive. By permitting the peerage of the first Lord Stansgate to be extinguished the Commons may well eventually prove to have connived at their own corruption. In any case it is surely an act of breathtaking political arrogance for one of England's constituents to propose unilaterally to sterilise another. What was morally wrong in 1649 is morally wrong now.

It has long been common knowledge that debates in the House of Lords attain in general a greater distinction than the House of Commons is in general capable of supplying and that in the Lords the cross-benches lack a parliamentary

*From Mr Philip Thody*  
Sir, I don't know why people are so worried about Mr Benn. He is merely a disciple of the Sons of the Rock. Dawn, whose aims were so neatly summarised by Bingo Little during his brief sojournment to Charlotte Corday Rowboham.

"You must meet old Rowboham. Bertie. A delightful chap. Wants in massacre the bourgeoisie, sack Park Lane and dismember the hereditary aristocracy. Well, nothing could be fairer than that, what?"

Your obedient servant,  
PHILIP THODY.  
6 The Ark, Leeds 17.  
September 30 1984  
An. 186. 18. La Raubiquaire.

This is not to say that the House of Lords needs no reform; that is another matter. What I seek to stress is that we have now been warned. The time may yet come when, perhaps too late, the ordinary citizen will realize that the power of the Commons has increased, is increasing and ought to be diminished and be quite unable to do anything about it.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
EDMUND EDSALL,  
53 Sarre Road,  
Brighton,  
East Sussex.

September 30.

*From Mr H. G. Pitt*

Sir, In his excitement Mr Wedgwood Benn may have forgotten that it is the Crown, not governments, which creates peers. If he will pause to recall the history he learned at the university he now likes to forget he attended, he will find that monarchs do not bend easily on such constitutional matters; and he might ponder the likelihood that many of her Majesty's subjects would not be willing to see her bullied.

Yours sincerely,  
H. G. PITT.  
Worcester College,  
Oxford.  
September 30.

ment of "The High Court of Parliament," which further ensured that they had their own court of appeal should matters not be conducted to their satisfaction.

Yours faithfully,  
HUGH BEATTIE,  
5 Cutmore House,  
Fringford,  
Bicester,  
Oxfordshire.  
September 29.

*From Mrs S. M. Lilley*

Sir,  
It must be fun to be a Lord :  
I've heard the "perks" are good.  
What if Benn's thousand new-made  
peers  
Should vote to stay "m'Lud" ?

For a student of politics in watching the Labour Party conference on television.

**Aircraft to 'kill' tanks**

*From Mr Warwick Collins*

Dear Sir, I should like to correct what seems to be an important error in the interesting letter from Squadron Leader Hindley (September 20) on the proposal to develop small aircraft to kill tanks.

The belief that small propeller-driven aircraft of the type mentioned in Lord Gladwin's letter (September 18) cannot carry sufficient weaponry to destroy modern tanks is easily shown to be factually incorrect.

appreciate the relation between the sophistication of aircraft and that of the missiles they carry. In practice, the more sophisticated the missile, the more functions it expedites, the less sophisticated the launching or aiming platform need be. A useful example is the new Hughes Wasp anti-tank missile. It can be fired in the approximate direction of the target at distances of up to six miles away, and will locate and "sniff out" the target using microwave or infrared homing. Up to 20 such missiles could be carried by a light aircraft

A military load for such an aircraft (with, say, a 1,000 hp turbine engine) would be 2,000lb. This was the payload which the Mustang was able to carry in World War II, and techniques have improved since then. It is also generally known that an infantryman can carry and launch a potent anti-armour guided missile. The Soviet Sagger in the Yom Kippur war; guided projectile aircraft in this case does not need to exceed 30lb. To assess the tank-killing capacity of this type of aircraft, we must ask how many tanks remain to ask how many times payload can be divided into a 2,000lb payload.

As an illustration to guided weapons, up to 100 optically-sighted anti-tank rockets could be carried on a single mission. Tests with Sura rockets, among others, show how effective is the combination of such weapons with the light aircraft.

Squadron Leader Hindley raises the crucial question of sophistication in modern battlefield conditions. The necessity for rigorous study in this area cannot be over-emphasized. For example, present planners do not yet seem to

on a single sortie.

Because unit costs of such aircraft would be a maximum of £250,000 per copy (as opposed to £1m for modern battle tank), they could be produced in significant numbers. Together the two systems would provide a defence system of great cheapness and high mobility, capable of rapidly concentrating firepower wherever there occurred the possibility of an armoured breakthrough.

This is the intriguing possibility which is at present taxing the minds of strategists at the Ministry of Defence. The capacity to deter conventional attack by entirely conventional means would add to the stability of Europe and would reduce the necessity of restoring at an early stage to nuclear weapons the deterrent element of invasion. I believe this argument refutes the judgement put forward by Mr Michael Rubinstein (September 20) that consideration of such a system is "warmingonger". On the contrary, it is warming for peace.

Yours faithfully,  
WARWICK COLLINS,  
23 Kingston Park,  
Lymington,  
Hampshire.  
September 23.

urgent need to increase the number of alternative schools, to offer a pluralist society opportunities to children according to their parental beliefs.

Yours sincerely,  
BRIAN COX  
20 Park Gate Drive,  
Cheadle Hulmo  
Stockport,  
Cheshire.  
September 30.

Many parents, and I am not of them, want their children to attend schools where teachers inculcate Christian principles. Other people are granted that young men and women over the age of 16 may be permitted to attend vocational institutions as long as they use no trapezoids.

There are already areas where a majority of parents find their moral values differ from those of the majority teachers in their local school. This situation will occur more often in coming years. The liberty of parents to educate their children as they see fit will increasingly

## A load of rubbish

From Mr Andrew Constable

Sir, The stark reality of the phrase used by Mr Anthony Cardew's local council, "Household Waste Amenity Centre" (September 27), took me aback. Here at Chigwell we have a " Civic Amenity Point ".

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW CONSTABLE,  
Chigwell School,  
Chigwell,  
Essex.

September 29.

From Mr Rolf Schulz

Sir, I would refer to John Carter's article published on September 2. From the context of the article one must assume that he claims it is only the "rich outsiders" who have caused the kind of resentment which leads to kidnapping.

There is nothing new about the form of banditry. It has been practised in Sardinia for a great many years. At one time it was sheer robbery and now it has progressed to kidnapping people, which is more profitable. To quote one bandit: "They do not make so much

Tourism is encouraged in Sardinia, and had it not been for the developers (not always successful) and the tourists, the island would be an "ordinary" holiday-making place. The islanders would probably never have had the chance to enjoy the beauty of the island, nor would the essential services exist.

While the island is being exploited, the local population now enjoys a higher standard of living, and has much better prospects than ever before with the influx of tourists. Caccia's "different" league analogy shows ignorance of the facts. I would have thought that a fictitious value of the private property is published in an open article, then those who write or are responsible for its publication should also be expected to underwrite their statements.

The chances of being kidnapped are less than being in an airplane crash; and in the same way that it does not prevent people from flying, it should not prevent anyone from spending his vacation in Sardinia. However, it would be a fallacy to assume, and as Carte claims, that only the very rich are potential victims. On the contrary, it is the not-so-rich who may become victims, as they least expect it. The Sardinian native is as likely to be kidnapped or murdered as any foreigner.

It would seem that Carter attempted to justify their action of one of the most barbaric of all crimes.

Yours faithfully,  
ROLF SCHILD.  
5 Byron Drive, N2  
September 30.

### Convenience food

*From Mr W. S. Bolitho*

Sir, As the son of a Cornish miner I was interested in Mrs de Gannesford's letter (September 27).

My father's fingers were too large to hold his pasty by the "ridge". He held it with one end in his hand and, like his children, he ate the lot. It was not only my mother's cooking that was involved: there was also the ridge.

my mother. When filling the flat  
baked pastry, potatoes and  
turnips were put on first, followed  
by the meat, before the pastry was  
folded over. This was done to ensure  
that, in cooking, the juices from the  
meat did not leak out but were  
absorbed by the vegetables.

I have never encountered the  
variation of a different content at  
either end but I still have three  
specific memories:

1. The best used was always of the  
highest quality that could be  
afforded.
2. In the essential accompanying cur-  
ry of tea, sugar was not only permitted  
but was encouraged—to aid the  
digestion.
3. If I had been very good, I was  
allowed to fold the ridge. I was  
Yours faithfully,  
W. S. BOLITHO,  
Wards Heath,  
Lower End  
Layer-de-la-Haye,  
Colchester.

From Mr R. P. Welch  
Sir, I seem to remember that one of the present Government's election promises was to introduce legislation. Why on earth then are children interfered with by the proposal to change the way that bulls in fields? Everything seems perfectly well ordered as it is.

I have led countless walks with groups of children along miles and miles of footpaths. Very often the children are accompanied by their mothers and fathers, the bulldozers are bled and passing close by adds enormous excitement to the walk. What injuries we suffer are generally the result of negotiating barbed wire when there should be

Only once have we met a bull, accompanied by about 40 heifers. All seemed peaceful. He was grazing and so were the heifers. We proceeded warily into the field but before we had gone 50 yards the attack began. All the heifers were charging at us. We didn't stop to think. We were running for our lives being inquisitive but they were merely attacking. We were beaten a hasty retreat, reaching safety with just yards to spare. The only one to participate in this event was the bull, who didn't even glance our way.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD WELCH,  
Brookstones Cottage,  
Sydenham,  
Oxford.

the King of England. George III's reign is still considered the golden age for the sovereign's left-of-center and snobbish clothes to be distributed among the gentlemen of his nobility, who had no cause for dissatisfaction with the length of the skirts.

The versatile spring William Combe tells us, "I have been present when a slave of an American returned with impudence from his shirt, to show an astonished company that the Crown and GR which were worked upon it, were his own, sir, yours faithfully,  
OLWEN HEDLEY,  
5 Denny Crescent, SE11  
September 29,



Improved torque means that even at low to medium urban speeds, the

Protection against collision as important as protection in a collision.

Engineer







## COURT CIRCULAR

**BALMORAL CASTLE**  
October 1: The Prince of Wales, Patron of the Royal Opera, and The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President of The Royal Ballet, were present this evening at an after-dinner concert at the Royal Opera House Development Appeal at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Mrs. Frances Cornhill and the Hon. W. Whithead were in attendance.

**NSINGTON PALACE**  
October 1: The Duke of Devonshire, Lord of the Isles, and the Countess of Devonshire, were present at the opening of the new extension to the National Museum and the new extension to the National Museum and the new extension to the National Museum.

**DRK HOUSE**  
JAMES'S PALACE  
October 1: The Duke and Duchess of Kent were entertained to dinner by His Excellency the Ambassador and the Hon. W. Whithead at 4 Grosvenor Square.

Thanksgiving Service for the late Sir John Gubbins, 1907-1977, will be held in St Paul's Cathedral at 11 on Wednesday, October 15, 1980.

Memorial service will be held on November 8 this year.

## Seven books put on Booker list

Professor David Daiches and his team of judges announced a shortlist of seven books yesterday for the £10,000 Booker McConnell prize. The rules say that these should be only one, but the judges decided that all seven were worthy of the prize.

There is always going to be controversy about selecting novels as the best of the year. But the judges have decided that all seven are worthy of the prize.

The books on the list are: *The Englishman's Boy* by John Galsworthy; *The Englishman's Boy* by John Galsworthy; *The Englishman's Boy* by John Galsworthy; *The Englishman's Boy* by John Galsworthy; *The Englishman's Boy* by John Galsworthy; *The Englishman's Boy* by John Galsworthy; *The Englishman's Boy* by John Galsworthy.

## Memorial service

A memorial service for Mrs. Alison (née) Burt, who died on October 1, 1979, will be held at 11 on Wednesday, October 15, 1980, in St Paul's Cathedral.

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## Marriages

The Earl of Dartmouth and Mrs. G. M. Seguin. A service was held privately yesterday in the Grosvenor Chapel, Grosvenor Gardens, London, to bless the marriage of the Earl and Countess of Dartmouth.

The marriage took place on September 27, 1980, in Lincoln's Inn Chapel between Mr. George James Thomas Vyvyan and Mrs. G. M. Seguin.

## y's engagements

Margaret to visit the International House of Music, London, to visit stations in the Western Isles, Stornoway.

of Kent, president of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, to visit stations in the Western Isles, Stornoway.

## appointments

appointments include: Sir William Scott, Commander-in-Chief, Army Group, to visit stations in the Western Isles, Stornoway.

of Kent, president of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, to visit stations in the Western Isles, Stornoway.

## city news

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## Lord Chancellor

The Lord Chancellor read the lesson at the annual Judges' Service held in Westminster Abbey yesterday to mark the opening of the Michaelmas sittings. The Dean of Westminster, the Very Rev. Dr. E. C. Carpenter, officiated. The Lord Chief Justice, the Master of the Rolls, the President of the Family Division, other judges and visiting judges and lawyers from overseas attended.

The Lord Chancellor's Book of the Year was presented to the Lord Chancellor by the Lord Chancellor.

## English coins that go up in value

By Geraldine Norman  
Sole Room Correspondent

The market in English coins went "berserk" yesterday. The price of a 1953 halfpenny rose to 10p, a 1954 halfpenny to 15p, and a 1955 halfpenny to 20p.

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## Irish bridge team puts Britain in the shade

From a Bridge Correspondent  
Netherlands, Oct. 1

Both British and Irish teams are struggling in the Bridge Olympiad and are being upstaged by their near-neighbours, Ireland. In the ladies' series, in which the British were regarded as certain medalists, Ireland have a clear lead at the head of the field. In the men's series, the Irish are also in a strong position.

## Arts education conferences

A series of conferences on arts education in a multicultural society is to be held throughout the country this autumn.

The first conference, on the Commission for Racial Equality, the Gulbenkian Foundation, and the Arts Council, will be held in London on October 10.

## Film clips to be shown

By Our Arts Reporter

Excerpts from a film banned by the BBC, 15 years ago, will be shown for the first time on October 11 when Sir Hugh Greene, former director-general, recalls some of the most famous battles of the film.

## Luncheons

The Lord Mayor of Westminster gave a luncheon yesterday at City Hall. The guests included Lord Caccia, Sir Donald Gosling, Mr. John Lindsay-Bethune, and Mr. W. M. Windmill.

The luncheon was held at City Hall, London, on October 1, 1980.

## Naval promotions

The Royal Navy has approved the following promotions of Officers of the Royal Navy, effective from October 1, 1980.

The following promotions have been approved with effect from April 1, 1980.

## Science report

## Genetics: Chromosomes and retardation

By the Staff of Nature

Researchers in Australia have published a survey suggesting that a form of mental retardation associated with a specific chromosome defect can affect females as well as males. Fragile X, as it is known, has been assumed to have little or no effect on the intelligence of female carriers.

The preponderance of men among mentally retarded patients living in institutions was first pointed out in 1889 and has often been noted since. A survey of mentally retarded schoolchildren in New South Wales in 1974 not only confirmed the sex-bias but also revealed that affected boys were more likely to have affected brothers than affected girls to have affected sisters.

Those results suggested the existence of one or perhaps more forms of sex-linked mental retardation due to a defective X chromosome. That put mental retardation in the same category as diseases such as haemophilia, which are expected in strict males, who have an X and a Y sex chromosome, but not females who have a double dose of X, one of which is normal and compensates for the defect.

Researchers have since established an association between a visibly abnormal X chromosome and a sex-linked form of mental retardation. Some of the microscopically abnormal, saw-tooth shaped chromosome appears to have a knob attached by a thin stalk to the main body of the chromosome. The knob is known as the fragile X chromosome.



Margaret Mee (right), the artist, showing her paintings of flowers of the Amazon to Senhor Roberto Campos, the Brazilian Ambassador, and his wife at the Natural History Museum.

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OBITUARY  
PROF ANTHONY BETTS  
Development of school of art at Reading University

Professor Anthony Betts, Emeritus Professor of Fine Art in the University of Reading since 1963, died on September 27, at the age of 83. He had been Professor of Fine Art from 1934 to 1963.

James Anthony Betts was educated at St. Stephen's School, Skipton, and moved on to study at Bradford College of Art and the Royal College of Art. From 1926 to 1930 he was head of the School of Painting at the Bradford College of Art (now part of Sheffield Polytechnic) and from 1930 to 1934 he was principal of Kingston upon Thames School of Art, which was now part of Kingston Polytechnic.

In 1934 he was appointed lecturer-in-charge of the School of Art at Reading University, on the retirement of Professor Allen W. Seaby. The original art school had opened in Reading in 1860 and was the earliest constituent of the University Extension College which became the University of Reading, and then in 1926 a university. Betts was appointed Professor of Fine Art in 1943.

During his 30 years at Reading, Anthony Betts built up a discipline of drawing and painting which was founded on the teachings of Walter Sickert and the practice of the Camden

## REAR-ADMIRAL PAUL HEBRARD

Rear-Admiral Paul Hebrard, one of the pioneer aviators of the Transatlantic route and later a successful leader of the French air travel business died on September 29 at the age of 93.

Paul Hebrard was born in Toulouse on January 18, 1901, and entered the Navy through the Ecole Navale. Almost immediately he became involved in air travel—first as the pilot of a balloon and then graduating through dirigibles, biplanes, and seaplanes. During his 18 years with the French Fleet, Air Arm he carried out the tests on the Latécoère 300 "La Croix du Sud" and at its controls he broke the world distance record for a seaplane on June 23, 1935, with a flight of 4,500 kilometres in 31 hours.

In 1934-35 he piloted aircraft on the first regular South Atlantic postal service, practical experience which stood him in good stead in 1942 when he was promoted to Rear-Admiral.

## HON JAMES SMITH

Lord David Cecil writes: Jimmy Smith, who died on September 24, was a life for many years. He was a member of the syndicate which promoted opera at Covent Garden before the war. He was a governor of the Sadlers' Wells Foundation, and in May 1944 was elected chairman of the College of Music, London, a post he held until December 1961.

He was a member of the Covent Garden board between 1950 and 1961 and he did much to promote good relations between the two theatres. He was also very active in the affairs of the Royal College of Music. Jimmy Smith should be remembered not only for the work he did for music, but also as a figure in the social life of his time: original, delightful and with an extraordinary gift for making friends. From youth to old age, he continued to make them and of the most varied descriptions: young and old, male and female, famous and obscure and from both sides of the Atlantic.

He owed this gift to an unusual combination of qualities: a generous, affectionate, tender-hearted nature; a strength of character and a robust, outspoken good sense; so that he was both a sympathetic and a helpful friend. Further—and this was what made him so delightful—his personal qualities were so unselfishly conscious to the point of an agreeable eccentricity, was distinguished by an exceptional power of creating enjoyment for himself and others, an intense feeling for the beautiful and a cheerful, unpretentious, and infectious.

This personality, in spite of growing infirmities, remained to make his company, up to his very last days, heart-warming and exhilarating.

## MARGARET CROPPER

Margaret Beatrice Cropper, who died on September 27, spent her whole life in South Westland, and became its poet by right of her intimacy with its hills, fields, its streams and flowers, and its country people—their speech and ways.

The literary world in general ignored her; but to a few poets and men of letters her work was treasured as something unique and lovely—among them Gordon Bottomley, George Macaulay Trevelyan, and Norman Nicholson. She began writing in the early years of the century, and her last volume of poems, *Something and Everything*, was published in 1978 when she was ninety years old. It contained some poems written after her eighty-third birthday, in which there is no loss of strength or vision.

She wrote two kinds of poems—pastoral narratives in which the people of the hills and fields are linked with the life of the hills and fields around them and given a living reality by the clear and unobtrusive way in which she handled the landscape speech and dialect, the best perhaps of these, "Little Mary Croshaw" and "The End of the Road", written in 1930.

## MR BILL WRIGHT

In 1953 he was made a producer and worked on a variety of programmes ranging from the coverage of Sir Winston Churchill's funeral.

He devised *Westminster* in 1973 and produced every one of the 126 programmes in the series screened to date. A ninth series is currently in production, and produced included *Queen of the Form*, the *Radio of Britain*, and *Roby House*.

Lady Ruthven, widow of Sir Hugh Ruthven, died on September 24 at the age of 83. She was a life for many years. She was a member of the syndicate which promoted opera at Covent Garden before the war. She was a governor of the Sadlers' Wells Foundation, and in May 1944 was elected chairman of the College of Music, London, a post he held until December 1961.

**Thurrock's**  
FAMOUS ENGLISH SHOES  
Made in Melville  
of Dark Brown  
under Calf  
er Lined  
er Sole.  
Best...  
AUSTIN REED REGENT STREET  
Buckingham Palace  
and principal area



ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Sept 29. Dealings End, Oct 10. \$ Contango Day, Oct 13. Settlement Day, Oct 20.  
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

[illegible]



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for building products, heat exchangers,  
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250 tonnes, repaired and  
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# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

**Bryant**  
Industrial  
Construction  
Bryant Construction Ltd

**Stock Markets**

FT Index 483.2, up 2.2  
FT Clits 70.74, up 0.56

**Sterling**

\$2.3910, up 35 points  
Index 75.8, down 0.2

**Dollar**

Index 83.5, down 0.3  
DM1.8085, down 32 pts

**Gold**

\$680.50, up \$10

**Money**

3-month sterling 15H-15H  
3-month Euro \$ 134-134  
6-month Euro \$ 134-134

### IN BRIEF

## US partner for Lucas in micro-chip venture

Two of the world's largest automotive and aerospace component manufacturers, Lucas Industries and the American TRW Group, are combining to develop a microchip controlled fuel system for diesel engines. The system, which has been described as "a space age solution to improved emissions and fuel economy" is aimed mainly at the booming diesel engine market in North America. Car and truck manufacturers who have traditionally used petrol engines are switching to the European type of diesel to take advantage of its greater economy. World wide sales of diesel engines at present stand at 5 million a year, are expected to double by the late 1980s.

### \$200m diesel plant

International Harvester of the United Kingdom has signed an agreement with ENASA, Spain's leading industrial vehicle producer, for a joint venture to set up a £200m (€33.5m) diesel engine plant in Spain with an annual capacity of 80,000 units.

### NEB finance director

Mr Tony Blackett has been appointed finance director of the National Enterprise Board. He was previously deputy to Mr Martin Brookman, who has joined the Wellcome Foundation as finance director.

### Serck holding sold

Rockwell International, which called off a £33m takeover bid for the United Kingdom Serck group last April after American Justice Department intervention, has agreed to sell its 29.7 per cent holding in Serck within four years. It has also undertaken not to buy into Serck or any other intricate plug valve maker for 10 years.

### Yen stronger

The Japanese yen continued its steady climb against all major currencies in foreign currency markets, rising 1.5 pence the dollar from 210.50 to 208.50 after touching 207.50. Heavy intervention by the Japanese central bank failed to halt the advance.

### Petrol usage down

Consumption of petroleum products in the United Kingdom during the three months from June to August was 16.7 per cent lower than the corresponding period last year. North Sea output continued to rub ahead of consumption at 19.7 million tonnes.

### Toyota investment

Toyota plans to start an 81,000 vva (£156m) plant construction and expansion programme at its Kinmaru factory in central Japan for the production of car transmissions and related parts.

### Wall Street up

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 7.00 points up at 939.42. The S against the SDR was 1.31519. The £ was 0.550665.

## Hadfields steel plants may close in Sheffield with loss of 3,000 jobs

By Ronald Marshall Northern Industrial Correspondent

Hadfields, one of Sheffield's most prominent steelmakers, is seriously considering closure with the loss of nearly 3,000 jobs unless it gets prompt and substantial Government aid. A special committee representing both public and private steelmakers is to issue a report soon calling for state aid to avert the collapse of the Sheffield steel industry.

Mr Derek Norton, chairman of Hadfields, a Loughborough subsidiary, said last night that the whole of the private steel industry was in a grave condition. He said: "We feel we are being treated unfairly compared with the public sector. Massive amounts of cash aid are being pumped into the public sector, and yet we are not considered for a penny. At the same time we are expected to compete in the same market. It is quite wrong."

Workers at Hadfields, who put on short-time in July because of falling orders and the company's two Sheffield plants are working only alternate weeks. At the time Mr Norton gave a warning of the need for government intervention, either through selective import controls or some form of subsidy. He said at the time: "We have now reached the position where we are desperately in need, to be done to safeguard the survival of the steel industry."

Also this summer, the south Yorkshire headquarters of the British Steel Corporation announced plans for "one week working" in its major plants. The depressed state of the motor industry was a big factor and steel orders in south Yorkshire were 50 per cent lower than a year earlier.

Mr Joseph Pickles, divisional director of the British Steel Trade Union, said yesterday: "The decision to provide the BSC with an extra £400m this year. More jobs lost, page 20"

## EEC rushes through new rescue plan

From Peter Newman Brussels, Oct 1

The European Commission tonight announced that it would draw up a new plan to aid the European steel industry to be ready by next Monday.

After a hearing, Viscount Davignon, the industry Commissioner, said the state of the EEC steel industry, the Commission concluded that the worsening financial position of Europe's steelmakers was threatening jobs and impacting what had been achieved through restructuring in the industry over the past few years.

A brief statement said that the Commission would seek not only to restore equilibrium in the industry but would also act to remove uncertainties at present hanging over the workers in the sector.

Between now and next Monday the Commission will have a series of discussions with all parties concerned with the industry. Its proposals will be put next Tuesday to ministers from the EEC member states at their regular monthly general affairs council.

Although the Commission gave no concrete indication of the proposals it has in mind it has clearly drawn some comfort from yesterday's meeting between Viscount Davignon and the EEC's 12 biggest steel producers.

The two sides agreed at that meeting on the need for early action to aid the worsening state of Europe's steel market which is characterized by over-production and falling prices. It is still unclear whether the Commission will propose the use of article 235 of the European Coal and Steel Community Treaty by which it can order production quotas.

## Government policies under review

From David Blake Economics Editor Washington, Oct 1

An intensive review of the Government's monetary and economic policy is due to take place tomorrow, and one of the key figures to be Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, who was flying back tonight from Washington, where he has been attending the annual meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Before he left Sir Geoffrey made it clear that he felt the Government was "right to continue to pursue the objectives of the medium-term financial strategy". But he added that the Government would "review the weapons" it was using and adjust according to how they were working.

Discussions seem likely to focus on the extent to which the medium-term strategy will have to be modified after the unexpectedly large growth in money supply earlier this year.

The Government will also be considering what to do about interest rates. There has been widespread speculation that there will be a cut in minimum lending rate soon. Sir Geoffrey said that where it was consistent with the Government's policies on monetary control, it was clearly desirable to get interest rates down, but he stressed that this did not imply anything about the timing or size of any change.

Generally, he deflected questions about the economy, though he roundly rejected the idea of a statutory incomes policy. The statement by M. Jacques de Larosiere, managing director of the IMF, did not call for formal incomes policies as such but merely stressed the need for sensible pay settlements, something which the Government had also done and where "we are making some progress".

The Chancellor reaffirmed his belief that overseas investment by United Kingdom companies was a valuable contribution to building up assets for the time when North Sea oil was exhausted.

Sir Geoffrey turned aside questions on how long the Government would wait before conceding that its policy might not have been successful. He stressed that the whole mood of the meeting of the IMF and World Bank had been dominated by a recognition of the central role which monetary policy played.

His comments on the world economy in the past few months took the same theme. He said that although inflation may be beginning to subside it was still too high. Governments must be ready to say that "short-term sacrifice is unavoidable if we are to lay the foundation for more sustained growth. The cost of alternative policies would ultimately be greater."

Much of Sir Geoffrey's speech concerned relations with developing countries and the "false" division between north and south. It was wrong to think that there were two exclusive groups of this kind, he added, "there was enormous diversity within the non-oil developing countries and the members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries."

Sir Geoffrey put forward a proposal for tapping Opec money for the World Bank, suggesting financing deals in which the World Bank would provide the expertise and some of the money and Opec members would come up with the rest of the funds.

The Chancellor rebutted charges by Mr Robert McNamara, president of the World Bank, that the proportion of British gross national product would fall by a quarter in the years to 1985, arguing that it was based on false premises. But he admitted that some of the second world war. Moreover, will not prevent unemployment exceeding three million by 1987, the report says.

Its projections for Britain in the 1980s are considerably more gloomy than those produced by most economists here, with the main exception of the Cambridge forecasting groups. The economists suggest that the recession this year will be worse than that experienced by an industrialized country since the second world war. Moreover, this will be entirely self-inflicted, resulting from mistakes in government policy, which has been delinquent for six years.

The forecasts, just published here, are part of a series of country reports produced by the authoritative United States Group Chase Econometrics.

The report says that the "extreme financial orthodoxy" adopted by British governments in response to the post-1973 slow economy here, with the aim of "all the benefits of North Sea oil have been taken in the form of a higher exchange rate, rather than in faster growth."

Chase Econometrics agrees that these policies will lead to slightly slower inflation. But it says that "the trade-off between recession and inflation is very poor."

A small improvement in the rate of inflation can only be bought at the price of severe damage to the domestic economy. As a result, the report suggests, government policy is likely to be significantly relaxed soon.

In the short-term, over the years from 1981 to 1984, the performance of the economy may be "acceptable". This is partly because the tide will be running in the Government's favour, with a world recovery and temporary decline in union militancy.

Fiscal and monetary relaxation, together with an expected decline in the sterling exchange rate will also help. This should result in quite rapid growth in 1982 and 1983, of 4.5 per cent and 2.8 per cent respectively. But this 30m will not last, and by 1985 the economy will experience difficulty again, and the recovery will "peter out" because of the lack of investment. "The 1982-84 growth will be the wrong sort of growth," the report stresses, "because it will be based on the 1979-81 period." Deflationary policies reduce not only the present level of national output, but also the economy's long-term performance.

Chase Econometrics is much closer to the Cambridge Economic Policy Group than to other British forecasters in its assessment of the adverse effects of a high exchange rate and the impact of monetary and manufacturing industry. It believes these effects are painful and severe. National output this year is predicted to drop by 3.4 per cent and inflation is forecast to be 20 per cent.

Both these forecasters are considerably worse than forecast by other economists, particularly for inflation. Prices are predicted to rise less fast in subsequent years, but inflation also will be involved in double figures in the later 1980s. If there is no U-turn in policy, unemployment is predicted to reach 3.3 million by 1983. A change in policy could result in unemployment at 3.1 million by 1987.

At the Annual General meeting it was agreed to rename the Company HANOVER INVESTMENTS (HOLDINGS) LIMITED

## UK facing 'at least 3m jobless by 1987'

By Melvyn Westlake

Scathing criticism of economic management in Britain is contained in a new report on the country's long-term prospects produced by an American group of economists. Even a major U-turn in government economic policy, with full-scale reflation before next spring, will not prevent unemployment exceeding three million by 1987, the report says.

Its projections for Britain in the 1980s are considerably more gloomy than those produced by most economists here, with the main exception of the Cambridge forecasting groups. The economists suggest that the recession this year will be worse than that experienced by an industrialized country since the second world war. Moreover, this will be entirely self-inflicted, resulting from mistakes in government policy, which has been delinquent for six years.

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## United States seeks stronger role for SDR in monetary system

From Frank Vogl US Economics Correspondent Washington, Oct 1

The Carter Administration today went further than ever before in stressing its determination to promote a "special drawing rights" centred international monetary system.

This move has underlined its opposition to a revival of an official role for gold, and coincides with a new effort in the Congress to legislate a stronger monetary role for gold.

Mr William Miller, the United States Secretary of the Treasury, told the joint annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank that the IMF "faces truly serious tasks" and had to be strengthened. In doing so there should be a stronger role for the special drawing rights.

Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina has just introduced a Bill that calls for "the reinstatement of the dollar as a gold reserve currency."

The Senator does not expect action on this in the remaining session, but he hopes it will help to promote the Bill at the start of the 1981 session.

Some support for this effort exists among advisers to Mr Ronald Reagan, the Republican candidate in the presidential election.

Mr Miller told a press conference that the Carter administration firmly opposed the demonetization of gold, as it would be to have the global monetary system on gold supplies from the Soviet Union and South Africa.

He went further than any other finance minister at the meeting in advocating IMF borrowing in private markets and indicated that this should be done in special drawing rights.

Mr Miller said that there should be steady allocations of special drawing rights to central banks and that the interest rate on the SDR should be competitive with that of other assets so that its attractiveness was enhanced.

He gave warning, however, that all actions on the SDR had to be done carefully as "it is of paramount importance that we develop the credibility and reliability of the SDR as a reserve asset."

Mr Miller noted that IMF borrowing in the markets raised in concrete terms the possibility of greater private use of SDR-denominated assets. He said that the IMF should think about new ways to increase the acceptance of the SDR in private markets, including the issuing by the World Bank of SDR securities.

He also urged the IMF, as part of its effort to expand the role of the SDR, to continue planning a substitution account under which central banks could place dollars in the IMF and receive SDR-denominated assets in return.

The administration's forced advocacy of a strong SDR has surprised bankers attending the conference. But informed sources said it was an effort by the administration to bind the government irrespective of the outcome of November's presidential election to the principle of a multi-currency reserves system with an IMF managed special drawing right at its centre.

The sources also emphasized that Mr Miller's speech was significant for what it did not say. Apparently there has been some internal administration pressure for an international campaign to strengthen efforts by industrial nations to monitor the debt problems of some of the largest developing countries.

There are, for instance, fears that Brazil will face severe debt problems next year. It has outstanding debts today of \$55,000m. The IMF alone cannot help Brazil, American sources say, and there is talk of the major industrial nations setting together to prepare contingency plans.

Mr Miller said that the United States supported efforts to expand the World Bank, including the establishment of an energy bank.

Which way for the IMF? page 21

## American banks raise prime rates to 13.5pc

By Our United States Economics Correspondent Washington, Oct 1

Commercial banks across the United States today raised their prime lending rates to 13 1/2 per cent from 13 per cent. The rapidly rising rate may go up to 14 per cent shortly.

The increases reduced share prices on the New York Stock Exchange and dampened dollar bond markets. The dollar gained in the currency market because of rising domestic rates.

The prime rate rise was expected after moves by the Federal Reserve Board to gain better control of money supply growth from the money market.

But the Fed may seek to slow interest rate acceleration, perhaps because it fears that too sharp a rise in rates would damage the economic recovery.

The Fed has allowed the rate for federal funds to rise above 13 per cent, but today it added some reserves to the markets when the Federal rate went to 12 1/2 per cent.

Mr William Miller, Treasury Secretary, said that high interest rates had to be accepted if United States inflation was to be reduced. He said the policies would bring a significant cut in the inflation rate in 1981.

He said the dollar should continue to do well because of the anti-inflation policies and the developments of the United States current account balance.

Mr Miller said that the decision to extend the present \$500m gilt-edged sale and repurchase arrangement with the banks has no bearing on MLR.

But some financial analysts see the Bank's moves as a relaxation of monetary control in the face of stiff political resistance to the still higher general level of interest rates that the strategy of credit demand might seem to have justified.

However taking the Bank's view that the operations are purely technical and consistent with the present aims of monetary policy, there is no reason why the operations have to be unwound before the authorities cut the general level of interest rates.

The Association of Italian Banks raised the prime rate from 19.5 to 21 per cent, in the wake of Sunday's increase in the Bank of Italy's discount rate by one and a half points.

Financial Editor, page 21

## Bid clearance for Blue Circle

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Blue Circle Industries, Britain's largest cement maker, was yesterday given permission to bid again for Armitage Shanks. The Monopolies Commission investigation into the merger of the two firms is continuing.

However, the merger was referred to the Monopolies Commission in February after 61 per cent of the Armitage shareholders accepted the Blue Circle offer.

The Monopolies Commission's report concluded that, on the basis of assurances it had received from Blue Circle and for other reasons, a merger was unlikely to reduce competition in the markets supplied by Armitage Shanks. Nor did they think it would reduce efficiency or worsen employment prospects.

Blue Circle has given assurances that it will not offer favourable terms on any of Armitage's products to win business for other parts of the group. Nor would it encourage Armitage to offer uneconomic measures calculated to drive competitors out of business.

Blue Circle said in August, when it announced a £47m issue and increased interim profits, that it intended to reopen negotiations with Armitage if the commission's report was favourable.

Its original share exchange offer of one Blue Circle share for one Armitage share, plus each Armitage share at 90p.

But since then Blue Circle's shares have risen strongly, closing yesterday at 346p, down 2p. On the basis of the original offer this would value each Armitage share at 115p. Yesterday Armitage shares closed 61p higher at 115p.

Consolidated, its close United Kingdom associates, following ICI's decision to pull out of the project last October.

ICI, which controlled 50 per cent of the project, sold its interest to the Anglo group for a nominal sum but agreed to buy most of the output for its fertilizer business.

After the restructuring of Charter, Anglo and Charter emerged as joint owners, but Anglo agreed to provide the finance for future development.

## SOBRANIE (HOLDINGS) LIMITED

Points from the Statement by the Chairman, Mr Charles C. Redstone

The important developments within the Company were of disposal and reallocation, leaving the liquid asset position very much stronger than it has been for years.

The most important decision of the year was to agree to produce tobacco products under the famous trade mark of Sobranie.

Another decision reached by your Company was to cease to be involved in the engineering industry: the last remaining company was closed in May, 1980, with the plant sold in June, 1980.

The sales and disposal had an immediate beneficial effect on the Company's position, principally because of the reduction in our overdraft and now present a very different financial picture from previously. The Company's main industrial activity is at present its Laundry Division which continues to improve and the present trends augur well, as does the Herald Division.

A new activity is a Leather and Gift Division, a trade in which a mounting interest is being shown.

In our Property Division we retain two freehold properties which will be the subject of rent reviews within the next twelve months and we retain a laundry site also being involved in the future of which discussions are proceeding.

Despite the losses of last year, we feel justified in recommending the maintenance of the previous year's rate of dividend. We are desirous of expanding our existing divisions with a view to improving the overall performance. However, in the short term your Company's surplus funds are being invested in the money market. On a conservative basis our net asset value at 29th February, 1980, was 63.2p per share which adjusted for the completion of the sale of all the tobacco interests becomes approximately 72.3p per share, but is not available in cash.

At the Annual General meeting it was agreed to rename the Company HANOVER INVESTMENTS (HOLDINGS) LIMITED

## PRICE CHANGES

<b>Rises</b>		100p to 600p	
Ass News	23p to 30p	Minoco	60p to 60p
Bridon	8p to 9p	Nagett & Zam	60p to 60p
Brookhouse	3p to 5p	SA Land	36p to 61p
Global Nat Res	25p to 51p	Vlahtentia	45p to 51p
Lasso	25p to 77p	Western Areas	29p to 32p
<b>Falls</b>		7p to 25p	
Aeron't & Gen	15p to 60p	MIM Hides	7p to 25p
Anchor Chem	3p to 7p	Redfern Nat	5p to 17p
Bess	4p to 21p	Reed Int	7p to 18p
Distillers	5p to 21p	Tubory Cont	4p to 18p
Guthrie Corp	12p to 80p	Tyrcroft	6p to 37p
<b>THE POUND</b>		Bank	
Australia \$	2.09	Bank	11.48
Austria Sch	2.12	Bank	11.48
Belgium Fr	71.75	Bank	11.48
Canada \$	2.96	Bank	11.48
Denmark Kr	13.72	Bank	11.48
Finland Mk	12.15	Bank	11.48
France Fr	10.31	Bank	11.48
Germany DM	4.46	Bank	11.48
Greece Dr	165.00	Bank	11.48
Hongkong \$	1.18	Bank	11.48
Ireland Pd	215.00	Bank	11.48
Italy Lr	230.00	Bank	11.48
Japan Yn	4.85	Bank	11.48
Netherlands Gld	4.85	Bank	11.48

## Anxiety in drinks trade as price rises and poor summer depress sales

### Brewers' market expectations fall flat

The brewery industry maxim that beer drinking is recession proof was finally disproved yesterday when the British Beer & Wine Society reported beer production in August was down almost 20 per cent.

The society, which started the year reflecting the industry's comfortable expectation that the beer market would rise by 2 per cent this year, first revised its forecast down at mid-year and yesterday forecast a 3 per cent decline on 1979 by the end of the year.

August's production downturn of 19.4 per cent has brought the total for the first eight months of the year to only 26.3 million barrels — a 4.2 per cent decline on the same period last year. The previous month reflected the dismal summer weather which continued into August, and the seven-month total was 1.8 per cent down.

But what is now worrying Britain's 80 brewers and particularly the big six national brewers whose margins depend on maintaining volume production is that September's production figures will show many brewers put through price rises last month that marked up bar prices by between 2p and 4p a pint and this may have increased customer resistance in the pubs at any rate.

Special factors could account for part of August's steep production decline, the Brewer's Society says. There were fewer brewing days than normal this August and there have been industrial disputes which have hit production in several areas.

There are increasing signs of anxiety among the brewers. At least two have indicated that prices will not rise further before the beginning of next year. In an attempt to persuade pubs not to add their own price increases, another brewer has offered conditional discounts on the brewery price rises.

In a struggle to maintain volume by increasing their individual market shares the big brewers especially are now discounting heavily to the telephone trade in the supermarkets. Pub tenants are especially angry that brewers did not raise canned beer prices last month and claim that the on-licence trade is subsidising the brewers' fight for supermarket shelf space.

Derek Harris





## China TV parts deal with Japan

China has signed contracts with five Japanese companies to import production line equipment for colour television sets which will increase output by several hundred thousand sets a year.

The New China News Agency said the Shanghai Number One television factory would import an assembly line from Hitachi with an annual capacity of 200,000 colour sets.

The Peking television factory will import assembly line equipment from the Matsushita Electrical Industrial Company and the Victor Company of Japan, with a combined output of 300,000 sets a year. The other contracts were for equipment for making television parts.

### Japan's reserves up

Japan's foreign reserves of gold, convertible foreign currencies and special drawing rights rose by \$720m in September to \$23,788m (£9,903m).

### Record coffee exports

Colombia's coffee exports reached a record 11.6 million sacks, worth \$2,100m (£850m) in the past year.

### Welcome for steel plan

Nippon Steel and the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry have welcomed President Carter's plan to reinstate the trigger price mechanism and revitalize the faltering United States steel industry.

### EEC price rise

Consumer prices in the EEC rose 0.6 per cent in August and 13.5 per cent in a year.

### W German trade

West Germany's wholesale trade turnover in August was about DM49,000m (about £11,200m).

### Index drop

Belgium's adjusted industrial production index for July dropped 38.2 per cent from June, and was 2.2 per cent lower than in July last year. The July production index fell to 76.9 from 124.5 in June.

Developing nations' oil supplies worst affected because of low stocks

## Feeling the effects of Gulf war

Spain, France, Brazil and India seem to be the countries worst affected by the loss of the 3.5 million barrels a day of oil exports from war-torn Iran and Iraq. The Iraqis, important supplier to developing countries, offered loans to 'buy their' exports on terms which effectively reduced the price of its oil.

Iran and Iraq were a crucial source of oil to India. They sent India more than 200,000 barrels a day. The Indian Government is reported to be looking for alternative supplies but it has always been able to rely on the Soviet Union to make up shortfalls.

Supplies from Iran or Iraq to developing countries may be small in comparison with imports into western countries, but are significant to the Third World. Developing nations' stocks may be low and they can ill afford aggressive bids on spot markets.

Brazil received more than 400,000 barrels a day from Iran. The National Energy Council this week said it intended to try to cut the nation's consumption by 20 per cent, which is equal to half these imports, but it has not said how it will be done.

Rationing would only be a last resort, ministers said, but Brazil would not turn to the spot market.

Petrobras, Brazil's state oil company,

buys all the 850,000 barrels a day which Brazil usually imports, refines most of it but sells less than half.

Brazil would particularly like to buy more from Venezuela which sells 50,000 barrels a day and Mexico, which sells 20,000 barrels daily. But neither has much to spare.

Dr Humberto Calderon Berti, the Venezuelan oil minister, said that his country would not increase its production to enlarge the inventories of the industrialized nations. But he suggested that Venezuela may eventually increase its production to sell oil to certain countries whose supplies were particularly affected.

The Soviet Union, which has a large trade deficit with Brazil, has offered to supply 20,000 barrels a day at \$33 a barrel. Brazil could also increase imports from Nigeria, Libya, Angola or Algeria, although their oil is more expensive than Arabian Gulf oil.

Brazil has become so dependent on Iraq because it pays slightly less (\$28) than the standard Opec price.

But Brazil's stocks of 110 million barrels will last for five months and allow some breathing space.

Although Iraq supplies 15 per cent of

Spain's petroleum and Iran 7 per cent, Madrid officials are unworried. They are not planning to buy oil on the spot market, according to Senor Antonio Garcia Diaz, minister for the economy and commerce.

He said that Spain had stocks on hand for 140 days and "would look toward countries like Mexico to increase their deliveries".

Iraq is the second largest supplier of oil to France, after Saudi Arabia, providing 23.43 per cent of the country's needs. But French oil stocks are so high and diverse that the government is not worried in the short term by a total loss of Iraqi supplies.

M. André Girard, the industry minister, estimates that France would not be affected by a total loss of Iraqi oil for at least 15 months. This estimate includes France's present reserve stocks which would last 120 days.

France's experience during the Iranian crisis when France had been buying about as much oil from Iran as it now does from Iraq, France had planned its supplies so that there is now no shortage of oil despite Iran supplying only 233 per cent of consumption.

## 700 jobs go as Glynwed plants close

By Our Correspondents

More than 700 workers are to lose their jobs with the closure, by Glynwed Domestic and Heating Appliances, of two factories in North Wales by the end of the year, within the next three months.

Six hundred are involved at the company's leisure domestic division, the rest at the Planet works.

International Telephones and Telegraph components group is to close its factory at Rhyl, North Wales, by the end of the year, with the loss of 81 jobs.

A further 235 jobs are to go in the paper industry with the closure of Cooke and Nuttall's mill at Horwich, near Bolton.

Findus, the frozen food group, announced a short-time working yesterday for 900 process workers and 250 redundancies at its Grimsby factory.

Farmdale of Welshpool, part of the Courtaulds Group, put 400 workers on a one-day work starting on Monday.

Thermalite, producer of insulating building bricks, is to make 200 more people redundant this week throughout its 10 factories because of the recession.

Fifty-two will lose their jobs at the Theford, Norfolk, plant, 40 at the Manchester factory, 30 in Scotland, and the Burton-on-Trent plant is to close.

More than 30 workers at Swift Poultry, Lincoln, are to lose their jobs at the end of this week.

## OECD move to cut out shipbuilding state aid

By Peter Hill

Industrial Editor

Proposals to eliminate by 1985 all direct state aids to shipbuilding industries are to be discussed by the main industrialized nations early next year.

The proposals, if approved, would amend existing guidelines laid down by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. An OECD working party on shipbuilding would also call on its members to reduce direct aids to 20 per cent by the beginning of 1982.

This move by the OECD secretariat is much in line with the European Commission's fifth directive on shipbuilding aids which expects a progressive reduction in state aid and which will come into force at the end of this year.

Government officials in the European Community have begun to consider in detail the draft fifth directive. It is expected to be approved by ministers towards the end of November.

But the draft directive will be scrutinized by both House of Lords and the House of Commons committees against the background of the new corporate plan of British Shipbuilders.

The corporation wants additional cash to supplement its external financing limit for this year and a parliamentary debate on shipbuilding is expected before the end of the year.

The OECD proposal for a new guideline on direct subsidies was raised during the latest session of the shipbuilding working party in Paris. There are renewed European protests that the Japanese shipyards are taking a disproportionate share of the reduced orders available.

The industry has faced steep downturn in the flow of orders and the shipbuilding nations have been forced to cut capacity and jobs. State involvement has increased substantially.

There has been a general trend towards increased indirect aids to shipbuilding, especially assistance to shipowners. The new EEC directive will require member governments to ensure that assistance to shipowners does not jeopardize the overall aim of the directive to promote greater efficiency through restructuring.

The United Kingdom offers one of the highest levels of direct assistance to the shipbuilding industry through its intervention fund. A subsidy of up to 25 per cent of contract price is payable on vessels ordered from British Shipbuilders.

British Shipbuilders announced yesterday that its Sunderland Shipbuilders subsidiary had won a £10m order from the Glasgow-based Denholm Line Steamers for a 31,000-tonne bulk carrier.

The contract will qualify for intervention fund subsidy and the Commission will be required to give its approval before the end of 1980 to continued operation of the fund to the middle of next year.

## US threat faces BP's new rubber factories

By John Huxley

BP Chemicals has started producing synthetic rubber from the first of two new plants built as part of a £45m investment at its Barry works in South Glamorgan.

By company said yesterday that unfair competition from American producers threatened its profitability. Energy advantages enabled them to undercut United Kingdom prices by up to 30 per cent.

Mr Don Brown, business manager, said that American prices for nitrile rubbers—an oil resistant product used in the car and engineering industries—were unreasonably low, although it was difficult to prove that the product was being dumped in Europe.

This year imports from the United States have doubled over a period in which demand has effectively halved.

BP, which announced half year losses on its chemicals operations of £34m recently, said that it was reducing its workforce at Barry by 400. The company is optimistic that the modernization will allow numbers to be stabilized at about 1,400.

Although the site is working at only half capacity, the recent investment should enable Barry to take advantage of any upturn in demand.

Next year a £40m PVC plant will come on stream, adding about 80,000 tonnes a year to present capacity. Meanwhile, the £5m plant has started production of nitrile rubber.

BP Chemicals is the sole United Kingdom producer of nitrile rubbers. But it still has only 30 per cent of the domestic market, worth about £13m a year, and even this share has come under pressure from American producers.

The company is the leading employer in the Barry area. On nearby sites, Dow Chemical is engaged on a £135m silicone investment and Dow Chemicals is building a new product line. Together the three companies employ around 2,500 people.

Meanwhile a warning that "large and important sections of the community fail to recognize the value to the United Kingdom of its big international businesses has been given by Sir Maurice Hodgson, chairman of ICI.

He said huge beneficial effects had accrued from international business in a wide range of economic and social and individual terms. Such benefits would be readily recognized by the financial world, he said, but not by the Association of Corporate Treasurers.

Sir Maurice, whose company manufactures in 40 countries and has selling organizations in 60 nations, said that the international dimension should not be overlooked by industry in creating a sector of economic reality in factories, schools and universities.

ICI's main thrust of territorial diversification in the near future would be in the United States. Completion of a £200m investment in a Williamsport plant in West Germany would probably "satisfy our ambitions in Europe for the time being", Sir Maurice said.

The company's exports last year totalled £1,100m and this contributed almost £600m to the United Kingdom's favourable balance of payments.

However, the company still has only 1.5 per cent of the West European chemicals market and 1 per cent of the North American market. The scope for expansion was obvious, Sir Maurice said.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Meaning of Britain's grain mountain

From Mr Malcolm Hill

Sir, Hugh Clayton informs us in an interesting article (September 25) that a British grain mountain has come into existence, but he does not tell us whether it is a blessing or a curse.

It is a blessing if it is a national joy or indeed what will happen to this mountain hereafter. He merely repeats the Brussels theory that the grain of the mountain is beneficial to farmers and that its dispersal is also a blessing to consumers. This theory is so wonderful, so outrageous and so completely in line with the fact that it is so cruel to suggest that it is quite ridiculous.

It is a comfort to the farmer that in uncertain times the CAP guarantees to buy his production at a fixed price. But if the resulting food mountains were released later on the market the reduction in prices to the farmer would be cruel.

Thus the farming lobbies in the EEC demand that the mountains be kept off the market and in effect they demand that the mountains be dumped in

the sea or behind the Iron Curtain.

The consumer having paid through taxation and import duties for the food mountains expects to benefit from lower prices. But as already shown, this remains a theoretical possibility for which the CAP intends no practical experimentation. Far from reaping the advantage of lower prices the consumer under the CAP regime is paying over world price levels in almost all food.

The alternative to the CAP is a free market in food and it has many advantages—a fair balance between farmer and consumer, lower food prices, no bureaucracy, no cost to taxpayers, no handouts to the Kremlin and no fraud. Why, sir, is there such fear and distrust of freedom and simplicity and such reliance on crutches and complexities?

Yours faithfully, MALCOLM HILL, 2a Penrhyn Road, London W8 6EG, September 26.

## Cartel by the banks

From Mr R. J. Bryant

Sir, It is a measure of clearing banks' manipulative expertise that public concern exists at all.

Since the subject is discussed piecemeal it is of interest at this time to take a broader perspective of consequences of this ordinary monopoly.

The banks have just caught red-handed by Monopolies Commission in clearing banks' cartel rig the markets and make massive profits. It is significant that the banks can do so so ingeniously against the public interest.

The Government, which self responsible for its fostered these over-mighty subjects, is now bearing consequences. This week criticized the banks for vetting national policy by using ways of getting at the "corset" which is an to controlling the money supply and inflation.

Meanwhile, the sw profits of the clearing banks represent nothing less than massive and unearned trawling of earnings from industry commerce to the cartels of clearing banks.

While the obfuscating of the clearing banks provide in of trivia such as "galle horses" and "stealing" h the reality is that Britain the highest unbanked portion of any advanced country and a derisory choice in numbers of banks to which to dilute its power.

This is not an exhaustive The pervasive influence of banks over every section activity in this country is known. The public should to dilute its power. The distribution of these factors in a nation with the rigidity malaise which is prevalent throughout business in country.

R. J. BRYANT, 7 St. Andrew's Road, London N16.

While it is true that motorist cannot buy exact one gallon why should he want to? If this reasoning carried into meteration it would mean that the smallest variation on an old gallon was 2.27p.

Petrol deliveries to garage are priced to three decimal places. Sir, K. M. FANTOM, Seaford Service Station, Station Approach, Seaford.

When I was at Cambridge we heard, in a lecture from an extremely eminent Professor of Economics, that one could judge the state of the economy of this country by the size of the pram wheels.

I said that the size of pram wheels at present time (and of push chairs, which were a comparatively new invention in those days) are the smallest that they have been in the last twenty five years. I, and many others, possibly including the Chancellor of the Exchequer, would be most interested to know from the manufacturers of prams and push chairs, what their plans for the size of pram wheels are for 1981.

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## MITCHELL COTTS

International Engineering, Transportation and Trading

### UNAUDITED RESULTS 1979/1980

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Profits up by 26%
- Engineering now 63%, Transportation 27% and Trading 10%
- A year of progress in South Africa
- U.K. profits increased
- Interest costs held

	Years ended 30th June	
	1980	1979
	£'000	£'000
Profit before Interest and Taxation	12,559	11,071
Interest	4,318	4,400
Profit after Interest	8,241	6,671
Share of profits of associated companies	775	486
Profit before Taxation	9,016	7,157
Taxation	3,961	3,192
Profit after Taxation	5,055	4,035
Minority Interests	1,538	719
Profit before Extraordinary Items	3,517	3,316
Earnings per Share (net basis)	6.57p	6.24p
Extraordinary Items	(223)	2,494
Net Attributable Profit	3,294	5,810

#### ANALYSIS BY ACTIVITY

	1980			1979		
	Turnover	Profit		Turnover	Profit	
	£000s	£000s	%	£000s	£000s	%
Engineering	115,049	7,965	63	86,503	4,933	49
Transportation	119,529	3,389	27	109,617	2,985	30
Trading	60,261	1,265	10	69,959	2,180	21
	<u>294,839</u>	<u>12,619</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>266,079</u>	<u>10,098</u>	<u>100</u>
Group Expenses & Interest		(3,603)			(2,941)	
		9,016			7,157	

#### ANALYSIS BY TERRITORY

United Kingdom	93,217	3,281	26	93,367	3,029	30
Southern Africa	151,869	8,072	64	116,920	4,393	43
East and Central Africa	18,052	1,421	11	20,570	2,412	24
Belgium, Americas, Australasia	31,721	(155)	(1)	35,222	264	3
	294,859	12,619	100	266,079	10,098	100
Group Expenses & Interest		(3,603)			(2,941)	
		9,016			7,157	

Mitchell Cotts Group Limited

Cotts House, Camomile Street, London EC3A 7BJ

Telephone: 61-283 1234. Telex: London 8814641

The Report and Accounts will be sent to shareholders on 10th November 1980.

## Japanese cash register challenge



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

# Gilts look for an October MLR cut

The gilt-edged market now appears to have decided that by the end of the month MLR is unlikely to be at 16 per cent. There are high hopes that the September banking figures, to be published next Tuesday, will point to a major slowdown in monetary growth.

If that proves to be the case it is not a Commission in difficulty to see the gilt-edged market shift credit carrying up a gear and taking enough stock off the market to allow them to bridge the deficit of the level which the authorities would be prepared to sell.

Meanwhile, they have decided to extend their £500m gilt-edged sale and repurchase facility with the banks that had been due to be unwound next Monday. The facility will now remain in place until November 7, leaving a decision still to be taken on the £750m facility that is due to be unwound on Monday week.

The fate of the latter may well depend on the degree of success the authorities achieve in setting the funding programme in the current period. If they do, the £750m facility will be extended to November 7, leaving a decision still to be taken on the £750m facility that is due to be unwound on Monday week.

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## Associated Newspapers

### Dealing with Trafalgar

In the stock market yesterday the shares of Associated Newspapers gained 23p to 309p and those of Trafalgar House 41p to 71p on the view that the demise of the London Evening News could unlock huge benefits for both groups.

Strictly on paper that view looks sensible. Even allowing for redundancy costs to Associated of perhaps £18m, Associated itself of losses estimated at between £5m and £7m annually and unlocks some property development potential while both groups share the proceeds of an Evening Standard which for a time anyway would enjoy a monopoly position and thus swing from marginal losses to a hefty surplus even in present economic conditions.

At the same time the deal seems to open up the possibility, admittedly faint, of two arch newspaper rivals reaching deals on other publications, although the authorities would presumably not smile so sweetly on the monopoly implications of any, as Express/Mail merger of the sort which has been negotiated over the two evening newspapers.

Differences of approach between the Harmsworth family and Mr Nigel Brookes and Lord Matthews at Trafalgar could preclude this anyway, while for the moment it is far from clear what sort of disruption the closure could create elsewhere in the two newspaper groups.

Meanwhile, Lord Matthews' comment that Sunday Express profits are no longer sufficient to keep Trafalgar's newspaper division in the black—last year it made profits of over £3m—is hardly a good pointer to Fleet Street results from both groups whose financial year ends were on Tuesday.

On the other side of the coin of course, Trafalgar is making its Beaverbrook acquisition pay by property development. Work on the former Evening Standard site on Lane premises could start in December. The site development could be worth up to £50m.

Putting Trafalgar's press interests into perspective it is almost certain that the shipping interests, earning profits in dollars, are proving more of a headache at the moment.

## Business Diary: Beswick's new bridge game • Unit trusts' St Giles

John Beswick, who retired last year after a long and distinguished career as director of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, bobs up today as the first director general of the British Ports Association.

After 17 years as the motor industry's top administrator, Beswick, who is 61, clearly missed the cut and thrust of

administration. He left at the end of last year to make way for a younger man and to pursue a career in law. He was asked to be a director for four years in 1963 and has been busy since then as a commercial arbitrator.

The SMAT has now been replaced by the British Ports Association. Beswick was one of the best going. He said: "But I wanted a change before retiring. I was a motor industry man and the ports are a different world. I was asked to be a director for four years in 1963 and I have been busy since then as a commercial arbitrator."

He's amphibious: the British Ports Association's John Beswick. He's also a former director of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders. He's also a former director of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders. He's also a former director of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

Washington. The International Monetary Fund has emerged from the key round of meetings in Washington this week with its central role in coping with the world's balance of payments adjustment problems greatly strengthened. But at the same time it is clear that there is a growing confusion over just how that role ought to be carried out and just what the fund is required to do.

The nature of the problem is obvious. This year the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) will have a collective surplus of about \$110,000m (£5,840m). Next year this should shrink slightly to \$85,000m, but the improvement is all accounted for by a reduction in the prospective deficit of the industrial nations, down from \$55,500m to \$26,000m.

The developing countries, which have been running a steady \$30,000m to \$40,000m deficit since 1974, will see their position worsen. At a \$72,000m deficit to \$80,000m, which have been running a steady \$30,000m to \$40,000m deficit since 1974, will see their position worsen. At a \$72,000m deficit to \$80,000m, which have been running a steady \$30,000m to \$40,000m deficit since 1974, will see their position worsen.

It is not just the size of the deficits next year which are causing concern. It is the accumulated debts which have built up over the years as developing countries have tried to borrow their way through to the time when the world economy would recover, something which it shows no sign of doing.

The conventional wisdom is that the private banks will not be able or willing to carry out

the recycling of funds from the surplus to the deficit countries on the required scale. Therefore, official channels will have to be brought into play and that means the International Monetary Fund.

There is much to be said in favour of the charges which are slowly being introduced as the fund tries to adapt to that role. But so far there is little sign that the issues have been thoroughly thought out. The reason for this is in part found in the genesis of the idea that the fund, rather than any other institution, is the right mechanism to use. This goes back to the middle of the 1970s and the first oil price rise.

Two arguments lie behind it. The first is the need for countries to adjust in order to get their payments back into balance. As originally envisaged, the proportion of the funding which the IMF would take would be fairly small. Its key role would be to grant the IMF seal of approval as a result of which the commercial banks would be able to make loans. This would, effectively, make the IMF the biggest credit-rating service in the world.

Neither of these two criteria fit well with the role which is now emerging. There is little prospect that developing countries can adjust their economies

in such a way as to move back into surplus and start paying back loans in any reasonably short period of time. This has been implicitly recognized by the decision to extend the period of adjustment and repayment to as long as ten years in some cases.

Mr is the second criterion likely to be met by the way in which the IMF is being pressed to change its attitude. The developing countries have made considerable impact on the thinking about the role of conditionality in the fund's activities.

At the core of their case is the belief that the world cannot allow poor countries to go under and should not force them to impose such harshness on their populations that life becomes intolerable. The attitude is understandable and right, but it fits badly with the aim of adding the fund as a stick with which to force governments in less developed countries to tighten their policies.

In practice, the fund can only fulfil the task which it has been set by ensuring that the money does get recycled. That in turn puts the borrowing countries in a much stronger position.

The Western nations have, on the whole, refused to face up to what is going on as a result. The nature of the fund is being changed before their eyes and it is becoming an institution the prime purpose of which is to serve developing countries. The

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It seemed like a good deal; but immediately Mr Francis J. Vincent Jr, Columbia's president and chief executive—long an adversary of Mr Kerkorian—said the offers would be rejected.

On Tuesday the Columbia board turned down the MCM offer. The offer was made to convert the \$50m of Columbia debentures into common shares and to give Mr Kerkorian a 24 per cent stake in the company.

Mr Kerkorian's offer to buy 12 million shares for \$50m (about £21m) came to \$40 a share—\$6 above the market

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## Economic notebook

### Where is the IMF heading?

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## Bitter battle for the control of Columbia's dream factory



Mr Kirk Kerkorian (left), of MGM, and Mr Francis Vincent Jr, of Columbia: a savage war of words and lawsuits.

Los Angeles. Mr Kirk Kerkorian, the low key, soft spoken 63-year-old Las Vegas-based financier who has been locked in a bitter battle this week for control of Columbia Pictures, gives the impression of being a shy, even diffident man.

"In person he is very humble," says a business associate. "He is the type of guy who looks like he is trying to get into the country club—and does not quite fit."

Nothing could be further from the truth. In the corporate world, Mr Kerkorian has the reputation of being a hard-nosed and tough adversary and his surface meekness hides a fierce determination that rivals have learnt to respect.

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Over the past few days Mr Kerkorian has had his teeth sunk very publicly into Columbia Pictures, in a savage war for control of one of Hollywood's most successful "dream factories". A few years ago Columbia had fallen upon hard times but now the studio is flourishing with pictures like *Kramer vs. Kramer*, *Electric Horseman* and *Blue Lagoon*, which have earned more than \$200m in the past year.

The affair had been seething beneath the surface for the last year. Mr Kerkorian, who has been locked in a bitter battle this week for control of Columbia Pictures, gives the impression of being a shy, even diffident man.

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Through his many companies he has been aggressively building his holdings in entertainment enterprises. Even his own public relations company describes him as a "very private man" and his official biography consists of three lines—listing only his holdings.

The self-made millionaire is a former pilot who founded a small Los Angeles charter airline company and turned the business into a \$100m investment, so that by 1970 he had bought controlling interests in Western Airlines for \$67.5m.

A former Las Vegas gambler with a reputation as a "high roller", he moved into the film business a decade ago after acquiring MGM stock and guiding the film company's diversification into the highly lucrative hotel and gambling business in Las Vegas and Reno.

When he first acquired Columbia stock in 1978 he went to great pains to insist that he was making a strictly personal investment, but even then Hollywood observers viewed the acquisition as a possible prelude to a future takeover.

Mr Kerkorian has homes in Las Vegas and Los Angeles, prefers open neck golf or tennis shirts and slacks to business suits and his friends say he is as plain as beans—but knows every corner of his business inside out. A passionate tennis player he seldom appears in public and shuns Hollywood's traditional red-carpet events.

Mr Frank Rosenfelt, chairman of the board of MGM film company, says: "Kirk is not a movie mogul. He is a businessman, pure and simple and he looks at film as a business. He is not part of the Hollywood scene or creative community and never has been."

Mr Rosenfelt and Mr David Begelman, who was forced to leave Columbia Pictures two years ago after a scandal involving company funds and who is now head of production at MGM, met Mr Kerkorian two or three times a week at the Culver City film factory headquarters.

"He never interferes with the company, never reads scripts or suggests this director or that star for a film," Mr Rosenfelt says. His function is in the overall planning and policy area. I keep him advised when we are going to make an investment or if we are running over budget. He is movie-oriented only in the sense that he understands the film business rather well."

"It is clear," Mr Silbert said, "that the defendants in this case never intended to live up to their agreement but simply wanted to entrench themselves, frustrate the best interests of their shareholders and force Mr Kerkorian out."

A lean and fit Californian, the son of an Armenian immigrant, Mr Kerkorian has been mostly a behind-the-scenes power in Hollywood for several years.

Not so, O'Donovan says, the new head of his country's Industrial Development Authority office here. This year, he tells me, the IDA will fulfil, and may even exceed, its target of 1,500 new jobs created by incoming British firms.

An electronics company has just signed to bring 440 jobs to Co Galway, but will not let O'Donovan tell me its name.

One O'Donovan plus is that many plants are built on land in the IDA's "bank" and they, not the company, deal with the planning authorities.

My first story of the shopping season, appropriately enough, is a grouse. Some so-and-so broke into my house, took my bottle of The Glenlivet 12-year-old single malt scotch and left me the bottle of Japanese blended whisky with which to console myself.

Convincing the public that unit trusts do a good job for investors could be a Herculean task when the public's fairly inaccurate view of their performance is somewhat different.

However, St Giles, managing director of the Allied Hambro Group of unit trusts and also director of Hambro Bank, has the right talents. Unlike most heads of unit trusts, he is basically an investment specialist. He left stockbroking to join Jessel Securities where, although he was mainly running the unit trust arm, he enjoyed a few diversions such as the acquisition of subsequent management of Maple.

He succeeded the almost legendary George Fletcher at Allied Hambro and is now following in his footsteps at the association. He has already taken an active role in the industry as chairman of its Investment Protection Committee, scoring a notable success in persuading two tin companies to change their dividend policy — to the substantial benefit of unitholders — before they moved their domicile.

This concern for the underdog shows itself in other ways. He became honorary treasurer — the person who takes the rap if it needs be — of the Citizens Advice Bureau in 1978.

## Metalrax (Holdings) Limited

An integrated network of engineering companies in England and Wales

### Interim results

	1980	1979
	6 months to June 30	6 months to June 30
Turnover	£000 12,185	£000 10,219
Group profit before taxation	1,071	1,143
Dividends	161	146
	12 months to Dec 31	12 months to Dec 31
Turnover	£000 21,598	£000 21,598
Group profit before taxation	2,529	2,529
Dividends	445	445

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Ross Davies



## FINANCIAL NEWS

## Stock markets

## Hopes of MLR cut send prices racing ahead

Most leading sections of the market remained in good form yesterday, encouraged by hopes of a cut in MLR after next Tuesday's hankin figures, which are likely to be somewhat better than originally expected.

Prices raced ahead from the start spurred by the overnight performance of Wall Street which was followed by further institutional support. Electricals were another strong feature as buyers eagerly sought bargains but prices were slightly exaggerated by a shortage of stock on the part of most jobbers. Oils too featured strongly with most of the buying concentrated among the second liners and those with North Sea interests as the conflict between Iran and Iraq grows worse.

However, market conditions remained volatile, and profit-taking after hours soon developed, which in turn saw most prices off the top at the close. The FT index, which had risen by 6.47 points, eventually closed only 2.2 up at 483.2.

Glits also made further progress on hopes of a cut in interest rates next week.

Jobbers reported rises of between 2.5 and 5.1 at the longer end, although profit-taking after hours saw this reduced to 1.5-2.5 at the close. In shorts, strong institutional support saw prices expand by 2.5 overall with profit-taking leaving them a shade off best levels at the close.

Industrial leaders experienced some patchy trade with most prices closing easier on the day where changed. The exception

was Rank Organisation, which rose 4p to 164p. But elsewhere, ICI shed 2p to 346p, Unilever 2p to 491p and Bowerwater was 2p

Shares of GKN look set for another morning after a meeting of the board with the group's brokers, Rouse & Pitman, yesterday. Word is the second half looks just as bad as the first, particularly in the United Kingdom. But the shares rose 3p to 182p yesterday, along with the rest of the market.

Distillers fell 5p to 216p mainly on lack of interest following a week of hectic buying by the Europeans. Scottish investors unloaded stock.

The go-ahead for the bid by Blue Circle from the Monopolies Commission saw shares

of Armitage Shanks harden 5p to 113p. But Blue Circle eased 2p to 346p.

The announcement that Associated Newspapers was closing the loss-making Evening News and selling the title to Trafalgar House, publishers of the Evening Standard, sent Associated shares up 23p to 309p, with the Daily Mail - A jumping 12p to 508p. Trafalgar House shares firmed 4p to 71p. News International, run by Australian newspaper magnate Rupert Murdoch, added 4p to 95p, but Reed International fell 6p to 187p.

Electricals had another active session helped by stock shortages as institutional support became more evident. Nevertheless, prices were mostly off the top at the close on profit-taking. GEC closed 3p to 325p, Rascal 5p to 313p, Thorn EMI 8p to 348p and Plessey 4p to 233p.

Among the second liners, Electrocronics rose 28p to 716p, accompanied by Ferranti 26p to 457p, and Farnell Electronic 13p to 341p, ahead of figures due out soon.

Engineers also attracted support. Hawker Siddeley rose 4p to 228p, B. Elliot 7p to 213p, Ransome Hoitman and Pollard 5p to 102p and Babcock International 6p to 99p.

Breweries were a weak sector as sellers took their cue ahead of a Customs & Excise report due out tomorrow which is expected to show beer sales down by as much as 19 per cent. Figures reveal a fall of 11 per cent in the South and 10 per cent in the North. As a result, Bass eased 4p to 218p. However, the latest round of new oil licences and the continuing conflict in the Middle East opened the way for another strong session among oils,

particularly the second liners. Arco rose 14p to 270p following the award of several licences to drill for oil in the North Sea. Others to gain ground included Global Natural Resources 46p to 510p, Charterhall 5p to 83p, KCA International 7p to 163p and Berkeley Exploration 12p to 238p.

Equity turnover on October 1 was 217,531m (£321) but gains: Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were Lamo, Charterhall, Plessey, BP, KCA International, 12p to 238p.

Royal Bank of Scotland shares raced ahead 9p to 105p yesterday as between 2m and 3m shares were placed in the market. But Citibank, strongly tipped as a prospective bidder, has firmly denied the rumour.

BTR New, ICI, Rascal, GEC, GKN, National Westminster Bank, Premier Oil, Rank, Charter Consolidated, and Consolidated Gold Fields.

Trade options continued to gather strength yesterday along with the main market as total contracts rose from 1,109 to 1,874. Lombar again led the 504 contracts as dealers reported most series traded. BP remained active on 267 with the October 420p series proving popular.

Traditional options also reported a pickup in activity with calls in Hamble Life at the close of 32p along with FNFC at 51p, Northern Kalguri on 16p and Bridon at 6p. Doubles were completed in Ultramar, Shell, FNFC and also BSG where the rate opened at 31p.

## Trading conditions worsen for Summer

Sales at Francis Summer (Holdings) fell by only 5.2 per cent to £8.2m in the six months to June 30, but pretax profits dropped by 40 per cent to £229,500, which, for a conglomerate in textiles, engineering and plastics, cannot be considered bad.

What is ominous is the decision to cut the interim dividend from 0.75p a share to 0.50p and the news that tough trading started to hit activity in all divisions only in the second quarter of the year.

It is understood that the group is still trading profitably, but the key months are only just beginning. It has seen a "fluster" of activity but not enough to arouse hopes.

There is a danger of only a token final or none at all. Summer tends to pay a high interim in relation to the final dividend.

Under Mr Colin Astin, the new managing director from Barclays Merchant Bank, the group has cut output and labour in every department and should benefit rapidly from an upturn in business.

In textiles it specializes in embroidery, which means it does not suffer unduly from imports, and the engineering division does a lot of work for Mothcare. Summer distributes plastics rather than manufactures them.

The debt-equity ratio is still low. An extraordinary profit of £101,712 has been made from the sale of surplus plant. The shares rose 2p to 5p.

## A F Bulgin announce £1m rights issue as interim profits slip

Electrical components group A. F. Bulgin announced a 10.5 per cent drop in interim pretax profits and an unexpected £108m rights issue yesterday.

Explaining the timing of the issue, Mr Robert Bulgin, the deputy managing director, said: "I think it is exactly the right time. We are poised for take-off as soon as there is any upturn."

The net proceeds of £10.2m will go on developing a distribution division in Portsmouth on a freehold property for the expansion of the Croydin distribution company; on the development of more sophisticated components and on further investment in the energy sector. Bulgin holds 63.3 per cent of exploration company CCP North Sea.

Trading is more difficult, with recession affecting Bulgin's diverse client industries. The group is not expecting any material improvement in the current half.

Interim pretax profits to

July 31 slipped from £1,000,000 on turnover per cent at £2.94m. The dividend of 0.53p gross changed, but the company tends to maintain the dividend at the same level.

The terms of the issue, underwritten by stock Vivian, Gray, are one non "A" share at 27p for every "A" or ordinary share.

The "A" shares issued 27p to 35p yesterday. The new company, Vivian, Gray, who have been interests in 3 per cent shares, will take up their 27p to 35p. The new company, Vivian, Gray, who have been interests in 3 per cent shares, will take up their 27p to 35p.

Composers supplies, is to kick off, with six from as well as A. F. Bulgin's brand. Croydin company Distribution will amount £250,000 of the issue proceeds on premises and fresh from the Bulgin group is primarily placed with its plant in CCP and wants in a position now to advance any of its assets in the energy sector.

## Anchor falls 24pc but holds interim

By Rosemary Unsworth  
Anchor Chemical, the manufacturer and distributor, has maintained its dividend at a 24 per cent fall in price.

Pretax profits went from £350,000 to £267,000 while turnover dipped slightly from £7.15m to £7m in the six months to June 30, 1980. Mr B. Pugh, chairman, said that it was impossible to forecast the level of profit for the full year. Last year the Manchester-based group made £786,000 profit.

Home sales during the first half advanced from £3.4m to £3.9m but this is not likely to be repeated in the second half, as much of the improvement came from one source.

Exports were down by 39 per cent to £1.2m largely because of the strength of sterling overseas sales showed a 12 per cent improvement to £1.95m.

Mr Pugh explained that with a weak trading pattern in the first six months of the year, the group had to increase its margins to make up for the loss of sales.

With the interim dividend maintained at 3.4p gross, first dividend will depend on the conditions prevailing at time, he warned. Last year final was 4.17p gross.

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## Briefly

London Pavilion: Pretax profit half year to June 30 £34,000 (£35,000). All expenditure relating to proposed redevelopment of the London Pavilion site up to June 30 totalling £10,000 has been included in fixed assets.

London and Continental Advertising Holdings: Turnover half year to June 30 £695,000 (year to December 31 £699,781). Pretax profit £143,000 (£160,000). No dividends for half year due to the significant change in business of the company—formerly Associated Tea Estates of Ceylon.

Murray Caledonian Investment Trust: NCB Staff Superannuation Scheme and Mincro's Pension Scheme bought 400,000 shares on September 30 and jointly held 4.10m shares (7.62 per cent).

A Beckman: Turnover for year to June 30 £12,35m (£19.1m). Pretax profit £957,000 (£2,21m). EPS 4.4p (£10.2p). Dividend 5.73p (same).

Sir Joseph Cusson and Sons has acquired Hunkydory Designs for £300,000 cash paid on completion and a further £100,000 in cash payable on May 1, 1981, subject to agreement with Mr Brian Shawcross, who owned 45 per cent of Hunkydory. Further amounts in cash, may become payable depending on Hunkydory's profits before tax.

Firind Quilcast proposes to take a substantial interest in Midlands newest TV. After one of the three competitors for the East and West Midlands commercial TV franchise. The involvement opens up the possibility of forming one of its surplus properties into a studio complex.

Laganvale Estate: Recent rights issue accepted in respect of 3.08m shares 196.65 per cent. Following the issue, Merghill Investments holds 578,000 and Strongmead holds 1,426m shares (15.3 per cent).

## Sparrow-Montalev deal

G. W. Sparrow and Sons, the international crane hire and lifting specialists of Bath, and Montalev of France have formed a joint venture company, Montalev-Sparrow, to be based in France.

Sparrow, with one of the most extensive fleets of mobile and crawler cranes in the world, including the world's largest truck crane, has nationwide coverage through its depots in the United Kingdom, including an office base at Aberdeen. Its other interests include a company based in Houston, Texas, and a joint venture company, Rezyat-Sparrow Arabian Crane Hire, based in Saudi Arabia.

Montalev, part of the Entrepose Group, is a major installation, erection and heavy lift contractor with more than 25 years' worldwide experience serving many industries.

Sony shares issue  
Sony Corporation said yesterday that it will issue 15 million common stock shares to raise money for equipment investment and to increase production of video tape recorders.

## Abwood accounts are qualified by auditors

By Catherine Gunn

Accounting irregularities discovered at Abwood Machine Tools by Mr Geoffrey Suckling, the new chairman, earlier this year, have led to a qualification of the 1979-80 accounts. There are other contingent liabilities running into six figures, Mr Suckling said yesterday, which will take "months rather than weeks" to sort out.

In January Mr Suckling discovered that sales invoices were being put through the books early, and stocks and work-in-progress were not being priced according to the company's stated policy.

Ex-managing director Mr Alan Peck's appointment was subsequently terminated, and Mr Suckling became chief executive. Mr Peck is claiming unfair dismissal, and the industrial tribunal's hearing has been adjourned until December. At the annual meeting on October 22 there will be a resolution not to re-elect Mr Peck, who is still on the board but retires this year by rotation.

Former auditors Shipley

Black resigned on June 24, and have since been replaced with Gane Jackson & Walton, who have qualified the accounts for the year to March 31, 1980. In the light of the chairman's remarks in his report, in their opinion neither the published loss nor the movement of funds statement show a true and fair view of the company's affairs at that date.

But the pre-tax loss of £150,000 last year is believed by the board to reflect the full extent of the effects of accounting irregularities in prior years. But the other substantial liabilities have to be dealt with next.

"I would hope to appoint another managing director as soon as the company is back on its feet," Mr Suckling said yesterday.

Trading has got very tough in the machine tools industry because of the recession, and Abwood has gone onto short-time working.

Mr Suckling is confident that the group will survive its double trouble to push forward once the market recovers.

Dayville's profits were down because of the cool summer and reorganization costs. Unprofitable franchises have been weeded out, with more emphasis put on wholesaling. Striker had a very good half and is expected to contribute about 35 per cent of group profits in 1980.

The interim dividend has been raised from 0.25p gross to 0.25p. Estimated half-year tax was down from £280,000 to £48,000 and capital allowances should ensure a lower full-year charge.

Mr Ken Bradshaw is now managing director of Plessey State Division.

Mr Geoffrey Croton is the new managing director of Brynmawr Insurance Company.

Mr A. Jefferson, has been made trackwork director and Mr R. H. Phillips, finance director of Gant Low Egre, railway engineers.

Mr J. P. U. Burr becomes chairman of Sidney C. Banks.

Mr P. R. Lawrence and Mr J. M. Horwell have been made joint chairmen of Devitt (Midlands) and Devitt Associates.

Mr Norman S. Fosh has been made director in charge of credit finance division, Lombard North Central.

Mr P. D. Hancox and Mr J. Greenwood became non-executive directors of Thomas Warrington and Sons.

Mr J. E. Grundridge is the new group managing director of Negretti and Zambra. Mr J. B. Goshall resigned finance director and Mr T. Adams is becoming a financial director in his place.

Mr Tony Berry has been made an associate director of Sarabex, London.

Mr Ron D. Hughes becomes marketing director of Mobil Oil Company.

Mr Antony Chancellor is to join the board of Tring Rail Securities.

Mr Zvi Schloer, director of RUT, has joined the board of Target Trust Managers in a non-executive capacity. Mr Brian Weston, has joined as finance director and he is also a director

## Downturn at Comfort Hotels

Higher interest charges and rising costs cut profits at Comfort Hotels International by more than a third in the 28 weeks to July 13. After a 47 per cent rise in interest charges to £817,000, pretax profits fell from £1.1m to £729,000. Turnover rose from £8.11m to £10.4m.

Comfort, which also owns Dayville's ice-cream parlours and Striker's hamburger chain, does not expect to match 1979's record £2.5m profit. But Mr Harold Edwards, the chairman, says the second half is normally more profitable.

But because of the seasonal nature of the five overseas hotels, out of a total of 220.

Comfort's place in the market—it operates two and three star hotels—has been protected from the worst of the downturn in the trade and occupancy rates were only slightly lower. But margins were squeezed as cost increases outstripped price rises.

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Mr Geoffrey Croton is the new managing director of Brynmawr Insurance Company.

Mr A. Jefferson, has been made trackwork director and Mr R. H. Phillips, finance director of Gant Low Egre, railway engineers.

Mr J. P. U. Burr becomes chairman of Sidney C. Banks.















